

# The BLUE BEETLE

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THE BLUE BEETLE, August, 1942, No. 13. Published monthly by the Holyoke Publishing Co., Inc. Office of publication, 1 Appleton Street, Holyoke, Mass. Editorial and executive offices, 32 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Holyoke, Mass., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Price 10 cents per copy. Subscription rates: 12 issues in the United States and its possessions, Mexico, South America, Spain, \$1.20. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Copyright, 1942, by Holyoke Publishing Co., Inc. Contents must not be reproduced without permission. The names of all characters that are used are fictitious. Use of a name which is the same as that of any living person is accidental.



# The BLUE BEEBLE

by Charles McNelis





WELL...OF ALL...! I DON'T  
KNOW WHO THAT GUY IS..  
OR WHERE HE'S GOING..  
BUT HE CERTAINLY  
DOES WANT MANNERS..  
SUCH NERVE!!



..BUT THAT ISN'T GETTING  
ME IN TO SEE CLASSEN!  
HERE'S THE--OH...OH!  
THE DOOR'S OPEN...?



THAT'S PRACTICALLY  
AN INVITATION--TO A  
GOOD NEWSPAPER  
WOMAN!



BUT...OH...H...GOODNESS  
IT'S DR. CLASSEN!



..AND...DEAD!! I  
THINK I'M GETTING  
SCARED NOW...



POLICE! HELP!  
MURDER!!  
POLICE!



and...JOAN'S RINGING  
SHRIEK FALLS ON  
READY EARS...

EH? THE POLICE, IS  
IT? WELL THAT'S  
ME!



..AN' BY THE SQUEAL OF  
IT--TIS A WOMAN IN  
DISTRESS. AN' THAT'S  
ME AGAIN!



WHILE...ON ANOTHER BLOCK...

HEY! WHAT'S  
THAT? SOME-  
ONE  
SCREAMIN'?



..AND IT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
JOAN MASON!  
SHE SHOULD BE  
AT CLASSEN'S  
THOUGH...









AND...NEXT DAY...

SO...IT'S A MYSTERY WEAPON WAS SHOT INTO HIS BRAIN THROUGH THE EYE...EH? BUT...

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROJECTILE THEN? IT WASN'T PULLED OUT BUT...IT ISN'T IN THERE EITHER...

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT THAT WEAPON...AND I'M GOING TO KNOW WHAT!

AND...LATER THAT DAY...AS DAN GARRET STROLLS HIS BEAT...

HUH? WHY...THERE GOES THAT GUY THAT SLUGGED ME YESTERDAY...

HEY, YOU STOP! I WANT A TALK TO YOU!

BUT...AS DAN DRAWS NEAR...THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER TURNS...AND...

YOU AGAIN, COPPER? WELL, BY...MAYBE THIS'LL COOL YOU OFF!

OH...

WELL, I'LL BE A LOW EXPRESSION. SAY-- THAT GUY REALLY NEEDS TALKING TO...

COME ON, YOU! NO USE DUCKING IN THERE--I SAW WHERE YOU WENT LAST TIME!

IN FACT...HE'S ASKING FOR A WORD OR TWO FROM THE BLUE BEETLE...







BUT--AS THE STRANGER  
LEVELS THE MYSTERIOUS  
GUN, TRAINED INSTINCTS  
TELL THE BLUE BEETLE  
TO DUCK!

OOPS!  
NOW  
WHAT?

WHAT DEVILISH LITTLE  
SORT OF BULLET IS  
THIS? LOOKS LIKE--  
GLASS?

BUT--MY WORD!  
IT'S COLD AS  
ICE--WHAT IN?

BUT  
INSIDE  
THE CELL...

HM--THE DEUCE!  
WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS  
IS THIS, ANYWAY?--AND  
WHAT GIRL WERE THEY  
TALKING ABOUT?

THERE!  
WE'LL TAKE  
CARE OF YOU--  
LATER! YOU'LL  
KEEP UNTIL WE  
GET THE GIRL,  
TOO...

UGH!  
YOU WANT  
TO KNOW TOO  
MUCH!

OH!

BUT IN ANY CASE I'M  
INSIDE THIS JOINT--  
AND I DON'T SEE ANY  
THING TO KEEP ME  
FROM HAVING A LOOK  
AROUND...

OR AT LEAST--I  
HOPE THEY DON'T  
THINK THEY'VE  
GOT ME SHUT UP  
BEHIND THESE  
FLIMSY BARS...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE... BUT FROM THE WAY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS GET SLUGGED AROUND IT'S TIME FOR AN INVESTIGATION...



BUT...BRRR... WHAT SORT OF A PLACE IS THIS, ANYWAY? ENDLESS PASSAGES... AND IT GETS COLDER AND COLDER AS YOU GO DOWN...



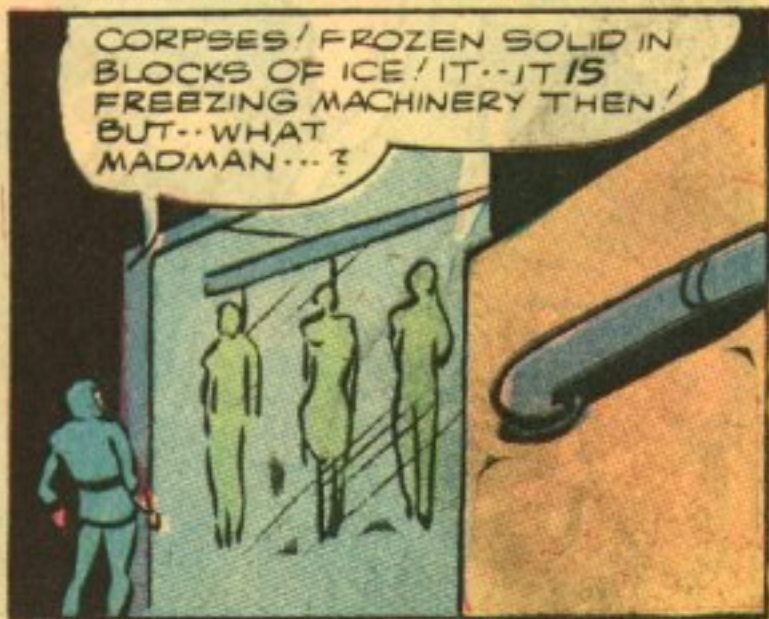
ALMOST LIKE FREEZING MACHINERY... GOOD GRAVY... WHAT'S THAT?



THIS MUST BE THE ENGINE ROOM...AND WHAT ODD-LOOKING ENGINES



CORPSES! FROZEN SOLID IN BLOCKS OF ICE! IT...IT IS FREEZING MACHINERY THEN! BUT...WHAT MADMAN...?



OH...OH! I HEAR SOME-ONE COMING...?



MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO DROP BACK HERE AND SEE WHAT GOES ON...I NEED A FEW HOT CLUES ABOUT NOW!

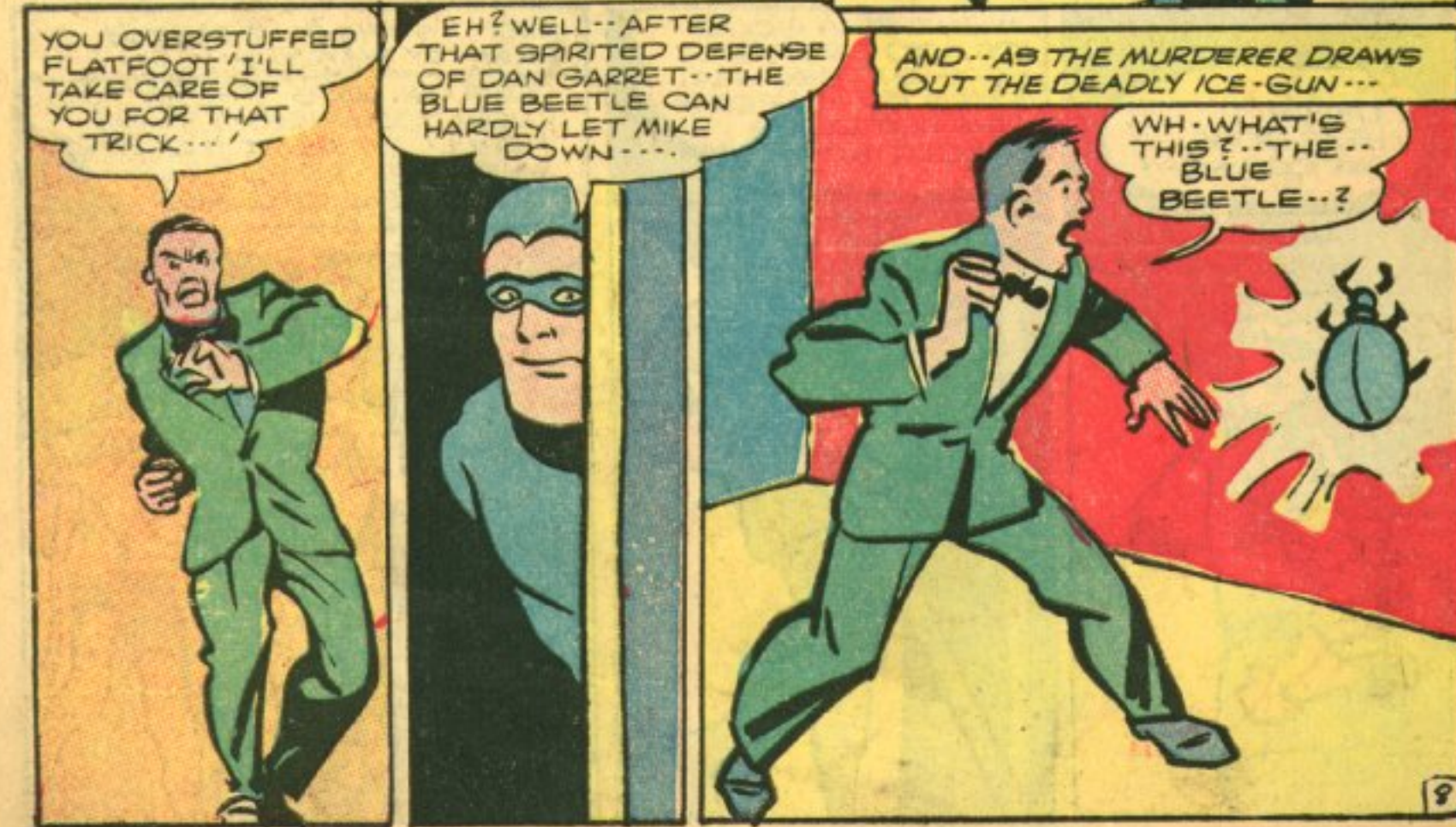


AND...AS THE BLUE BEETLE SILENTLY WATCHES...

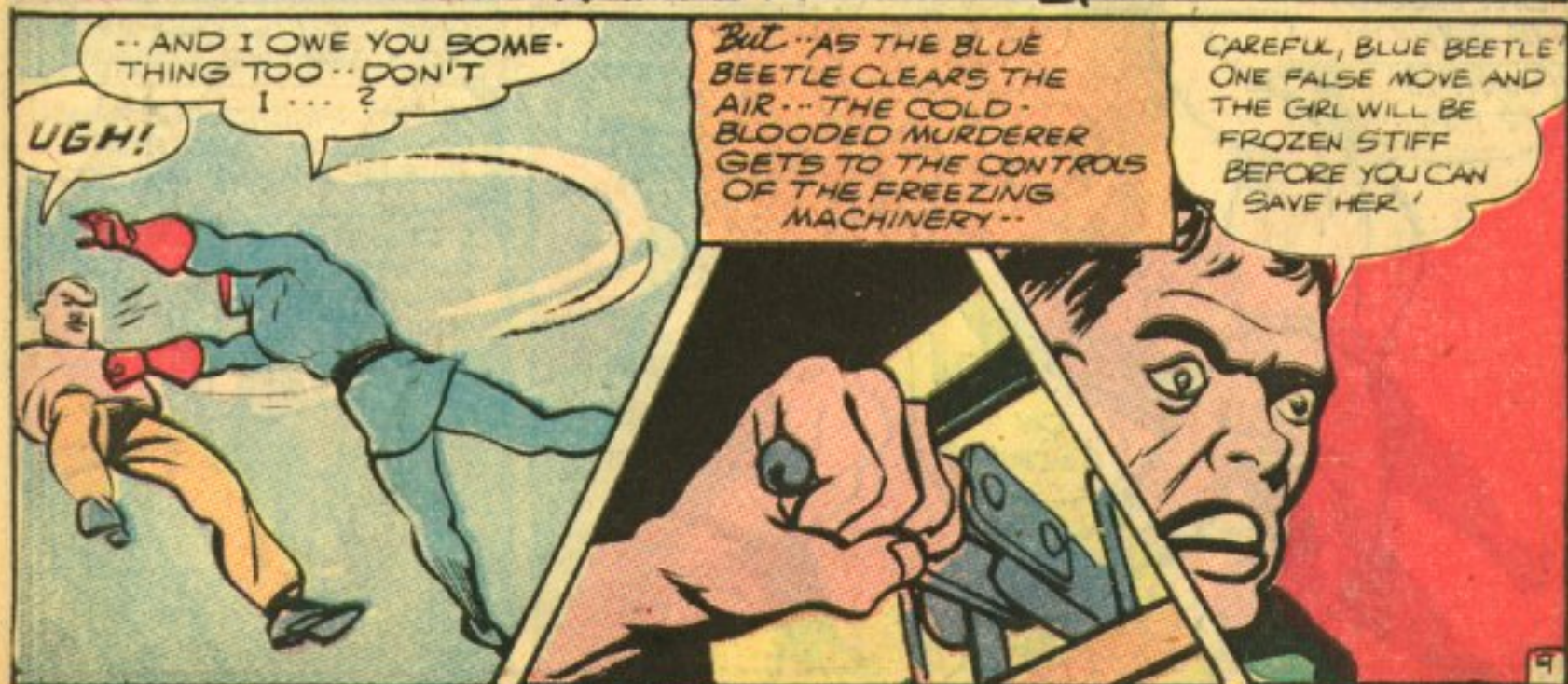
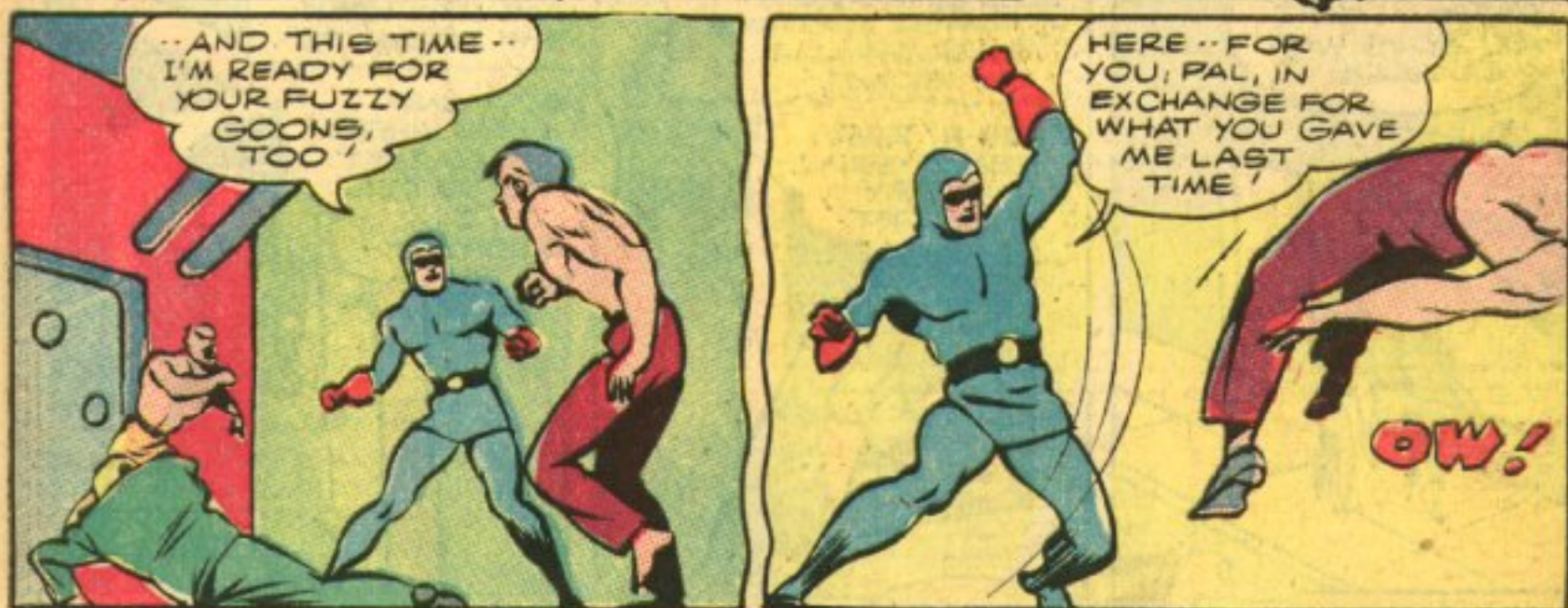
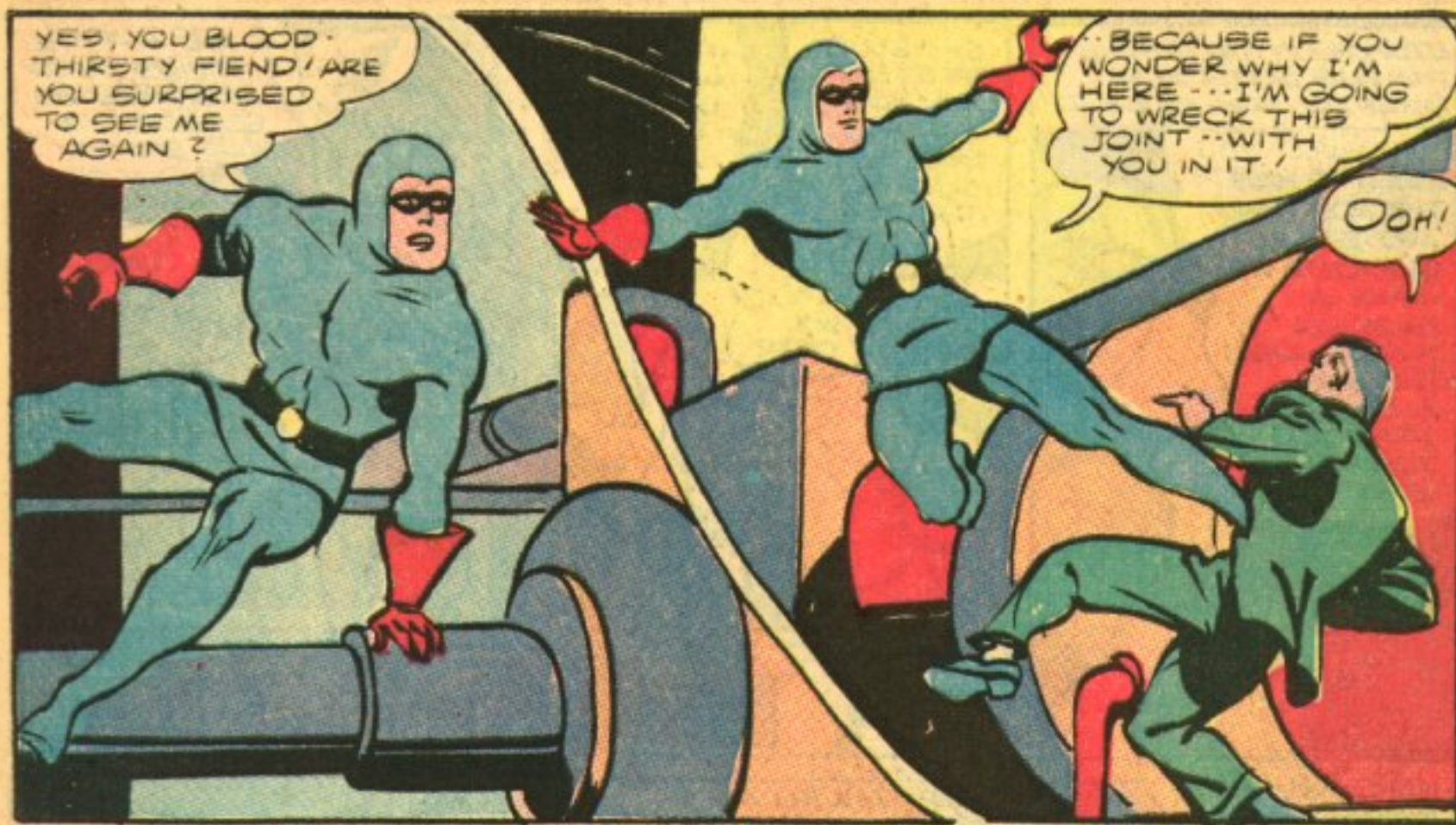
COME ON, BOYS! THESE TWO KNOW TOO MUCH...I THINK THEY'LL BE A LOT SAFER WHEN THEY'RE PUT AWAY IN A COUPLE OF SLABS OF ICE...













STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS, THE BLUE BEETLE IS APPARENTLY NON-PLUSSED!

HM--WELL-- YOU SEEM TO HAVE THE TOP HAND, MISTER! BUT SUPPOSE WE MAKE A BARGAIN! YOU RELEASE THE GIRL AND I'LL LEAD YOU TO DAN GARRET!

OH-- BLUE BEETLE-- NO! HOW CAN YOU SUGGEST SUCH A TRICK?

EH? WHY, MY DEAR

IT SOUNDS LIKE A VERY GOOD IDEA TO ME-- I ACCEPT THE OFFER-- HEE HEE!

AND WITH THE FIEND'S WIERD SERVANTS AS GUARDS, THE BLUE BEETLE SETS OUT TO TRAP-- DAN GARRET--

WELL-- COME ON-- THO' I CAN'T SAY I LIKE THE COMPANY!

HERE WE ARE! FRANZ' DRUG STORE-- WON'T YOU BOYS WAIT OUTSIDE?

AND--THE BLUE BEETLE MAKES A STRANGE ENTRANCE TO HIS FAMILIAR HAUNT!

SH-H! EASY, FRANZ-- SKULL-DUGGERY AFLOAT!

and IN A VERY FEW MOMENTS--

SO!-- AND HERE'S WHERE DAN GARRET HAS TO TAKE IT, I SUSPECT--

DAN GARRET IS RIGHT--

HAH! IT IS HIM!

GOOD! WE SLUG HIM!

LOOK HERE! THIS IS ILLEGAL!

BE QUIET! WE GO NOW!

OH! OUCH!

AND-- DAN GARRET RETURNS TO A FAMILIAR SCENE!

AH! MY FRIEND, THE FRESH POLICEMAN-- AND RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM TOO!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS





YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, EH? PERHAPS YOU WILL WHEN YOU REMEMBER THE NIGHT OF CLASSEN'S DEATH?

WHY? DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT?



OH, YES! NOW I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE--

FOOL! IT WAS I WHO KILLED CLASSEN! HE HAD DISCOVERED THE QUICK FREEZING PROCESS--



I HAD BEEN WORKING OUT THE SAME FORMULA THERE'S MILLIONS IN IT! DID YOU THINK I'D LET HIM PATENT IT FIRST?



--BUT WHY WASTE TIME EXPLAINING IT TO A FOOL OF A COP! BRING HIM ALONG--WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM ALL NOW--



BUT WAIT! HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING, MY FRIEND?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THE GIRL'S RELEASE, I SUPPOSE? BAH! SHE DIES!



OH--I WAS SURE OF THAT! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BLUE BEETLE? HE KNOWS YOUR SECRET TOO, NOW, YOU KNOW!

THE--THE BLUE BEETLE??



YOU! FOOLS--IDIOTS! DID YOU BRING THE BLUE BEETLE BACK TOO? WHERE IS HE?

WHY--UH--NO--NO!



WHAT? DOLTS! WHERE IS THE BLUE BEETLE??



and AS THE MURDERER RAGES FURIOUSLY-- Suddenly--

ER--PARDON ME-- BUT AM I BEING PAGED HERE?

WH--LUP!



THE...THE BLUE BEETLE'S  
HERE? BUT...WHERE IS  
THE COPS?



THAT, BROTHER IS  
SOMETHING YOU'RE  
NEVER GOING TO  
FIGURE OUT!



**OW!**



OR ANYWAY...NOT  
IN TIME TO DO  
ANY GOOD!



--AND AS FOR YOU FINE  
FELLOWS--THIS IS SOME MORE  
ON DAN GARRET'S  
ACCOUNT!



--AND LET  
THIS BE  
A LESSON  
TO YOU!



WHILE AS FOR YOU...YOU'RE GOING  
DOWN TO THAT UNDERGROUND  
ICE-BOX WITH  
ME AGAIN!



BUT THIS TIME  
THERE'LL BE NO  
MONKEY BUSINESS...  
SAVVY?







GO ON 'GET THOSE TWO PEOPLE DOWN FROM THE FREEZING PIPES'... AND REMEMBER NO TRICKS

I'LL DO IT! LET ME GO!



YOU WIN, BLUE BEETLE... THIS TIME ANYWAY!



BRRR... AN' HURRY UP WITH IT, TOO 'I'M F-F-FREEZIN' TO DEATH!



.. AN' DON'T LET ME DROP, EITHER, YE SPALPEEN 'I'M THAT FROSTED OVER, I'LL CRACK LIKE AN ICICLE!



SAY... MIKE IS HALF FROZEN 'DO YOU HAVE ANY BLANKETS AROUND HERE?

OOH... I'M DEAD... I'M A COLD, COLD CORPSE! BRRR...



ER... SURE... THERE ARE BLANKETS IN THIS... AH... CUPBOARD...



BUT... AS THE FIEND OPENS THE SUPPOSED POSED CUPBOARD...

OH... BLUE BEETLE! LOOK OUT! IT'S A... ULP!



COME ON, YOU 'BE QUIET... YOU'RE TAKING A JOURNEY WITH ME!

OH... NO, NO!



HEY... WHAT THE...? NOW WHERE DID THAT GUY GET TO?



While... OUTSIDE...

HEE 'HEE 'THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE BLUE BEETLE AND ALL OF THEM VERY NICELY!



IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED, MY DEAR--THIS WILL LOWER THE TEMPERATURE OF THE ENTIRE LAB TO 40° BELOW ZERO!

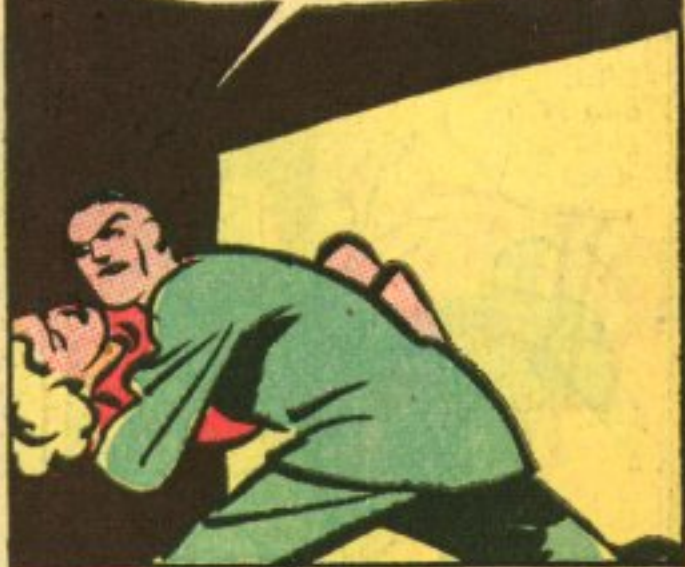


INSIDE THE LABORATORY--

A FROZEN TOMB OF DEATH WHILE YOU-- COME WITH ME--



I CAN MAKE USE OF YOU LATER ON, I THINK!



WELL, MIKE-- IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE STUCK IN THE ICE-BOX THIS TIME!



OH-H-H-- AN' DON'T I KNOW IT! AN' IT'S GETTIN' COLDER IN HERE EVERY MINUTE!



YEAH--BUT-- HUM--THOSE CHEMICALS FOR THE FREEZING PROCESS-- I WONDER NOW--



and...AS THE MURDERER GOES ON HIS WAY--

WHAT WAS THAT? AN EXPLOSION-- IN THE LABORATORY?



BUT--OH--LOOK!! THE--THE BLUE BEETLE--!



THAT'S RIGHT, YOU RAT! AND NOW-- THIS GAME IS ABOUT OVER--

YES?

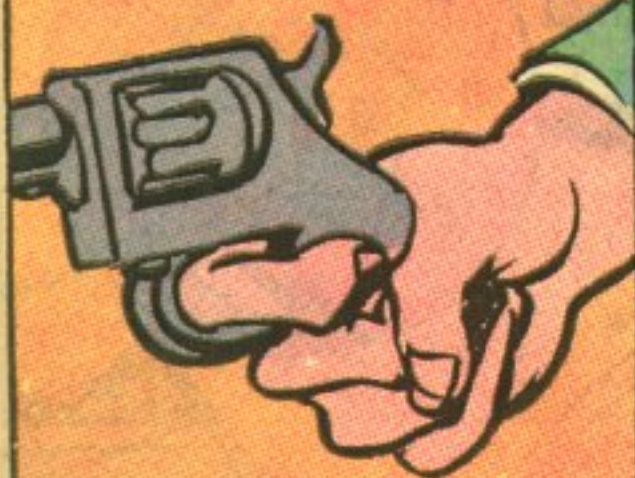


THAT MAY BE, BLUE BEETLE-- BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WIN THE LAST TRICK!





I STILL HAVE THE ICE-GUN--AND I'LL PUT A BULLET RIGHT THROUGH THAT GIRL IF YOU COME NEARER---



BUT SUDDENLY--A STRANGE THING BREAKS THE TENSE CLIMAX AS A PAIR OF BRAWNY ARMS LASH OUT OF THE DARKNESS, TO ENSNARE THE MAD DOCTOR---

AHA! AN' SO, ME FINE FRIEND--YE'D FREEZE ME SOLID, WOULD YE?

OH---  
**STOP!  
HELP!**



AND AS THE TWO STRUGGLING FIGURES ROCK BACKWARDS INTO THE GLOOM--

OH--OH  
LOOK OUT!  
THE PIT!



HEY! MIKE! WHERE ARE YOU? THEY'VE DISAPPEARED!



YE MEAN--HE'S DISAPPEARED! OOO--AN'TIS A LONG DROP IT IS!



THAT IT IS, MIKE! AND NOW--IF YOU'LL PROMISE TO DECLARE A TRUCE FOR A WHILE SUPPOSE I HELP YOU OUT OF THERE?

EH?  
A TRUCE?

WELL--AN' I'VE NO CHOICE, I SUPPOSE!



*and next day--*

YES--AN' I TELL YE DAN--IT'S A GOOD THING THAT DEVILISH LABORATORY WAS SMASHED BY THE EXPLOSION!

YES,  
INDEED!



--AN' AS TO THE BLUE BEETLE--I HAD HIM IN ME VERY HANDS, I DID--BUT--ETC--ETC--ETC--



THE BLUE BEETLE, MIKE AND JOAN WILL AGAIN APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *Blue Beetle*--



# BLUE BEETLE



THE JAP BEETLE... THE LITTLE PEST FROM ACROSS THE SEAS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE NATION'S MORALE THROUGH A VENOMOUS TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION FINDS THAT THE YANKEE BLUE BEETLE PACKS A STING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SMASH THE JAP AGENT OF DEATH!

TRAGEDY STRIKES AT A YOUNG SOLDIER HOME ON LEAVE...

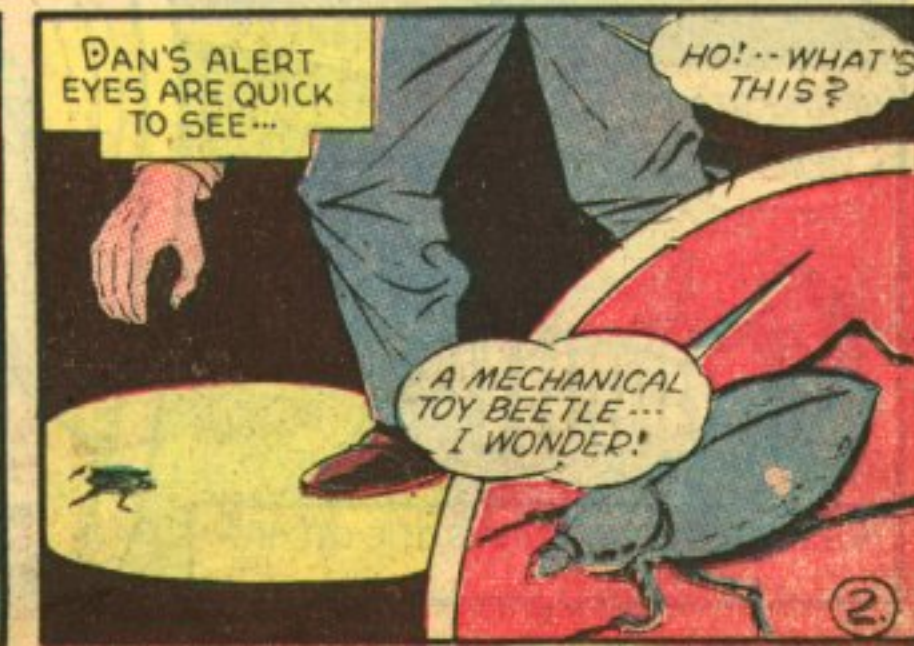
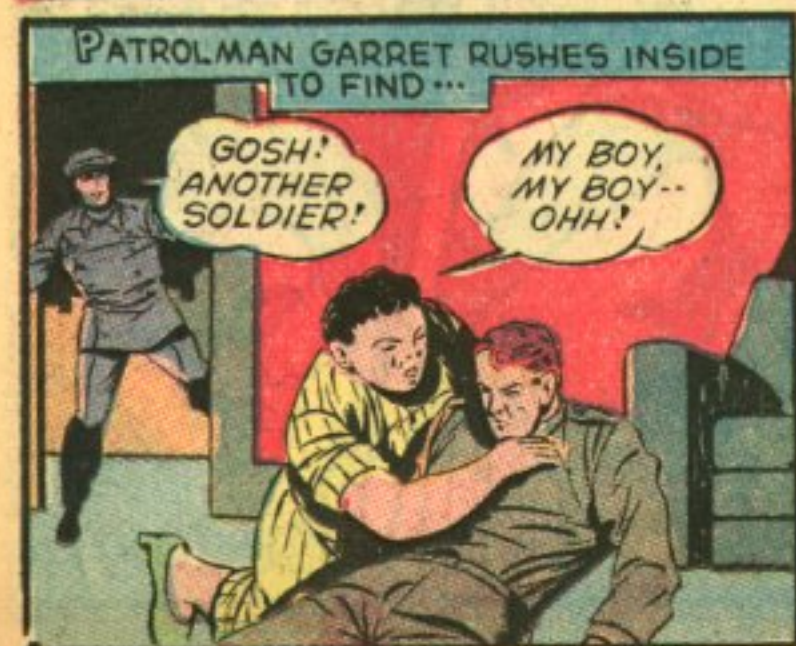
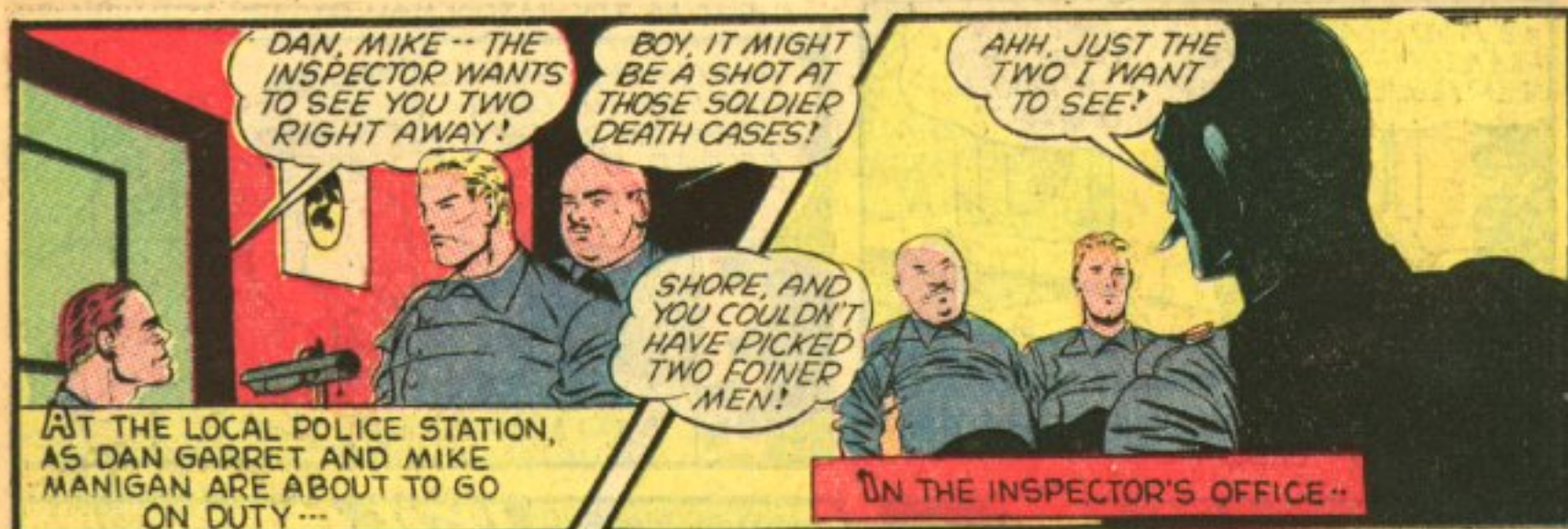


WUXTRY! FOURTH SOLDIER DIES WHILE HOME ON LEAVE-- READ ALL ABOUT IT!



AND A SHORT WHILE LATER, GLARING HEADLINES CARRY THE NEWS TO THE PUBLIC!

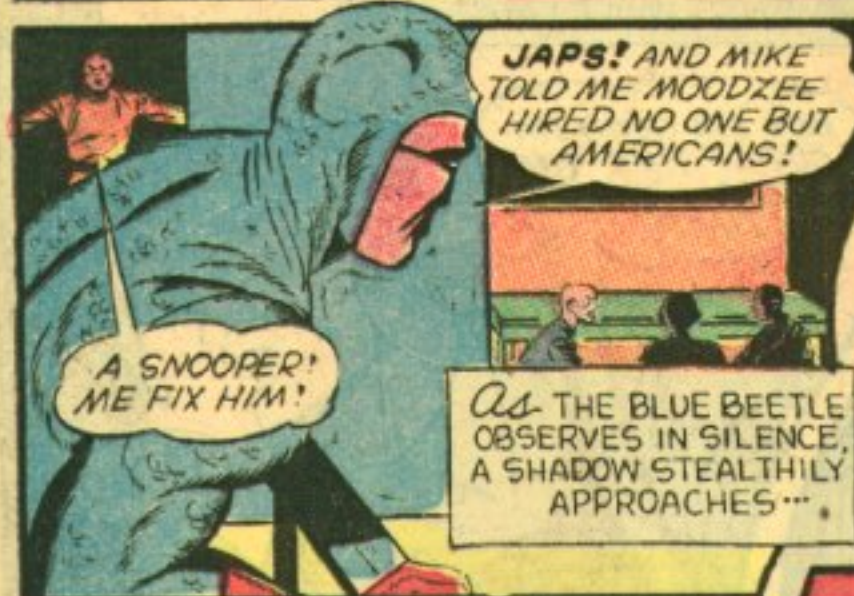




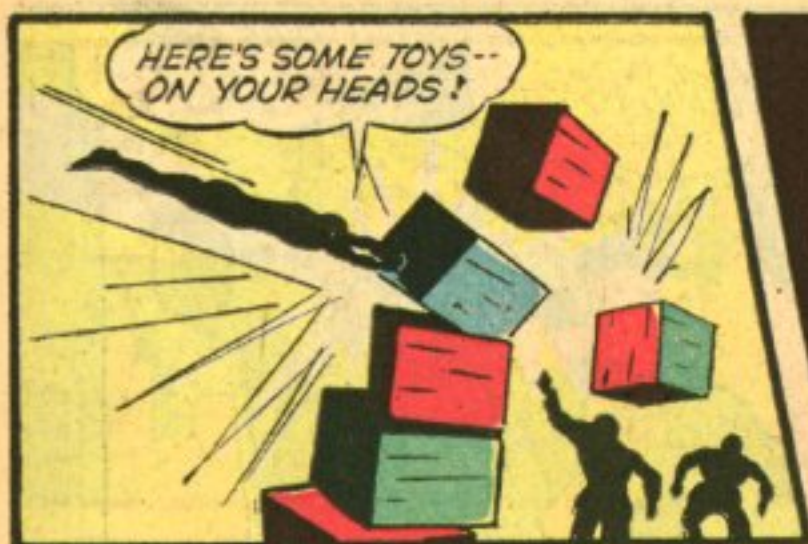




DAN ARRIVES JUST AS MIKE CLOSES THE DEAL--







HERE'S SOME TOYS--  
ON YOUR HEADS!



AT LAST, WE MAKE  
FAMOUS JAP STAB  
IN THE BACK!



Yim!

THE ANSWER  
TO PEARL  
HARBOR!



THIS IS THE END OF  
THE LINE FOR YOU  
BIRDS!



OKAY MUGS, THERE'S  
ENOUGH FOR ALL  
OF YOU!



BUT TREACHERY  
STRIKES FROM BEHIND!



FOOLS! ONE MAN  
AND YOU CAN'T  
LICK HIM!

BUT, HE IS  
STRONGER  
THAN AN  
ARMY!



ONE OF YOU CALL THE  
COP ON THE BEAT--THE  
REST HIDE--I'VE GOT A  
PLAN THAT WILL SET  
ME AS A LOYAL AMERICAN!



SUMMONED, PATROLMAN MIKE MANIGAN IS  
QUICK TO ANSWER THE CALL

GLORY BE! THE  
**BLUE BEETLE!**  
HOWD'JA DO  
IT, MOODZEE?

ONE MUST FIGHT TO  
PROTECT THEM--  
SELVES AGAINST  
THOSE WHO STEAL  
FROM OTHERS!





HEY!...  
WHAT  
TH--!

UNDOUBTEDLY,  
HIS CAPTURE  
WILL BE A  
FEATHER IN  
YOUR CAP!

SHORE WILL!  
IT'S TIME  
SOMEONE PUT  
THIS LUG BE-  
HIND BARS!



SHORE WISH ME  
BUDDY WAS  
AROUND TO SEE  
THIS!

PIPE DOWN-  
IT'S AN AIR  
RAID!



WHERE,  
WHERE?



WHAT  
TH--!

IN YOUR  
HAT, CHUM!



DRAT THAT  
CONFOUNDED-

ENJOY THE  
BLACKOUT  
OFFICER!



INSIDE, AS THE CRAFTY AGENT INSTRUCTS  
HIS MEN ON FURTHER DEATH MISSIONS!

YOU HAVE THE ADDRESSES  
OF THE SOLDIERS-- TAKE  
THE POISON BEETLES  
AND SEE THAT THEY  
ARE EFFECTIVE!

A FEW MORE  
DEATHS AND ONE  
BY ONE, THE  
AMERICANS WILL  
DESERT THE ARMY!



YIII! IT'S  
THE BLUE  
BEETLE!

ON THROUGH  
TOKYO!

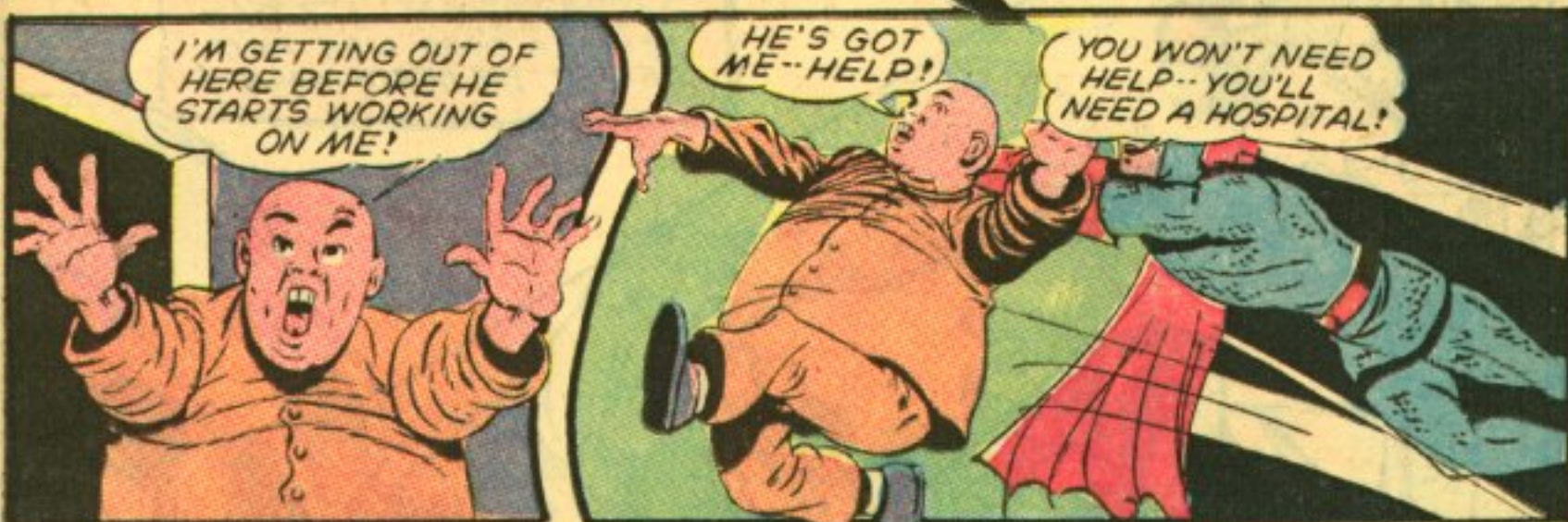
SUDDENLY, THE FEARLESS BLUE  
BEETLE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE!



KEEP 'EM FLYING!  
THAT'S MY MOTTO!

POW





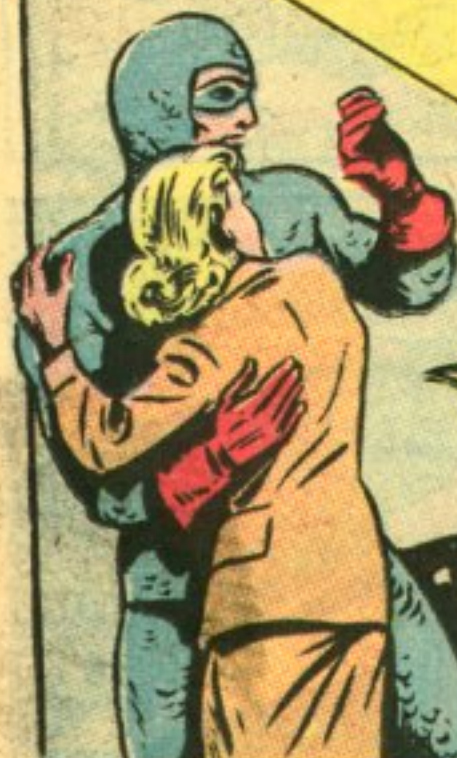
LATER, IN HIS UNIFORM, DAN GARRET LISTENS TO MIKE'S USUAL TALE OF WOE!



# The BLUE BEETLE



INTO THE ANNALS OF CRIME, THERE STEPS A NEW AND SINISTER FIGURE FEARED ALIKE BY POLICE AND UNDERWORLD... A MASKED, RUTHLESS, MURDERER, WITH STRANGE POWERS OVER LIFE AND DEATH--THE DEATH MASK!



THE DEATH-MASK PAYS A VISIT TO ONE PORKY FERRO, BOSS OF A VICIOUS GUN-MOB--



BOSS, LOOK--  
IT'S THE  
DEATH MASK!

SO--  
YOU'LL  
MAKE  
TROUBLE  
EH--?

HUH!  
WHY--  
I'LL---

FOOL! DON'T YOU  
KNOW THAT I HAVE  
ONLY  
A DEATH FINGER  
TO POINT

AND  
LOOK!  
HE FALLS!

WHAT! NO  
DEAD-PAN KIN  
DO DAT AROUND  
HERE---

A-GG-H-H







BUT BEFORE THE GUNMAN CAN PULL THE TRIGGER---

YOU TOO, MUST LEARN THE HARD WAY? VERY WELL---

GOOD GRIEF! THIS GUY AIN'T HUMAN--! S-STOP IT! WE GIVE UP!

YOU ARE CONVINCED-EH? IT WILL BE HEALTHIER FOR YOU IF YOU WORK WITH ME

UH-UH-OH-H!

WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY. YOU'RE DE BOSS--



AND NOW--- WITH REGARD TO THE ROBBING OF THIS BANK. I CAN SHOW YOU A BETTER SYSTEM-- LISTEN---

BUT NOW - THE SCENE CHANGES. NEXT DAY, JOAN MASON, DEMON GIRL REPORTER ON THE WAY TO HER BANK-ON A WEEKLY ERRAND ---

S'SSST! GO ON WIT YEZ--!

WE'LL LISTEN, COME ALONG NOSEY! SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO SEE HOW BIG A PAY-CHECK I GET!

NOT AT ALL BUT I KNOW YOU NEED A BODY GUARD!

WE LL, HERE COMES MY MILLIONS ---



A BODY GUARD-HAH! THAT'LL BE THE DAY!



SHALL I TIE A BLINDFOLD ON YOUR EYES-SO YOU GET PAST THE FIRST HAT-SHOP WITH IT?

WHEN SUDDENLY A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS SHATTERS THE QUIET OF THE BANK ---



OH--FIRE! HELP! IT'S A BOMB!

OH-MY GOODNESS WHAT'S THAT?

HUH! SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS ---



RUN! IT'S A BOMB

I'M LEAVING--

LET ME OUT OF HERE!





HEY - COME ON COPPER! HELP GET THE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE JOINT GOES UP IN SMOKE!!

SAV, AREN'T YOU ONE OF PORKY FERRO'S MOB? I KNEW SOMETHING WAS PHONEY HERE!



YA KNOW ME HUM? WELL --- FERGIT IT!

WHY - - YOU - BRUTE! THIS IS SOME TRICK!

OH!  
OH!



STOP! STOP! HE - HE'S HURT YOU CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE!

COME ON, MUSS! THIS PLACE MAY GO SIKY-HIGH ANY MINUTE!



BUT-AMID THE CONFUSION, A SILENT FIGURE SLIPS UNNOTICED INTO THE TELLER'S CAGES -



BOOM!

VERY NICE! MY PLAN WORKS PERFECTLY



HA-HA - !!! THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY--



COME - WE HAVE THE MONEY, BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! WE MUST GET AWAY



BUT AS THE PLAN SEEMS SUCCESSFUL--

HERE, TAKE THIS AND--H-H- WHAT'S THIS?



THE -- THE BLUE BEETLE!

SO! THE FAMOUS BLUE BEETLE EH? PERHAPS! SHOULD FEAR YOU ---

YOU CALLED IT RIGHT, BUD! THE BLUE BEETLE IT IS ---!

OH-H-H-!! LEMME OUTA HERE





WELL - GET POINTING, THEN ---

BUT THE DEATH-MASK, BLUE BEETLE -- KILLS MERELY BY POINTING HIS FINGER --!

WHAT! THE OLD CHARM ISN'T WORKING?

SO -- YOU STILL COME ON ---

HERE! GIVE ME THE MONEY! YOU CAN BRING HIM DOWN EASILY!

THAT'S BEEN TRIED BEFORE TOO!

BUT NEVER MIND - YOU CAN TRY AGAIN!

UGH! OW! OH!

GET HIM! I-I-I HIT HIM - BUT HE DON'T FALL!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SAME STORY -

HA-HA ---! IT MAY COST ME A FEW MEN, BUT - AT LEAST I'LL GET AWAY WITH THE MONEY!

ON YOUR WAY OUT, HUH? WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, NOW, WON'T WE?

YOU WON'T GET ME!

I THINK THIS WILL STOP EVEN THE BLUE BEETLE FOR LONG ENOUGH ANYWAY ---!

BANK HOURS  
FROM 9 AM  
UNTIL 5 PM















BUT THE BRAVE PAIR OF WOULD-BE RESCUERS ARE NO MATCH FOR THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE THUGS.

OH... YOUR'E HURTING ME...

I INTEND TO MY DEAR! AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU FORCE ME TO PUT YOU OUT OF MY WAY

WHY--- YE BLOODTHIRSTY DIVVLE - WHAT D'VE MEAN BY THAT?

AND THE BLUE BEETLE COMES TO...

THAT- THAT BRUTE HAS THOUGHT OF SOME VICIOUS WAY OF KILLING US...

WELL, WHAT SORT OF A GAME IS THIS?

YOU SHALL SEE, MY DEAR...

- AND YOU SHALL NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT! SORRY! I CAN'T STAY - IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS WHEN THIS GAS DRUM BLOWS UP!

YOU ARE A COLD-BLOODED SNAKE AREN'T YOU-?

AND BY THE WAY -- IF ANYONE CALLS - SAY I'M OUT HOLDING UP THE CURRAY PAYROLL CAR- DO YOU MIND?

OKAY - BUT JUST LET ME PROMISE YOU ONE THING...

AND THAT IS- YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

B'RRR... I'M NOT LIKIN' THE LOOK O' THAT FUSE...!

NOR I - BUT SAY! THERE'S STILL A CHANCE --!

OH... YOU ARE MAKING IT, BLUE BEETLE!

IF I CAN JUST GET MY TEETH ON THIS IN TIME --- UGH!

NOW -- HEAVEN SEND YE GOOD TEETH-- YE VARMINT!

I- I'VE --- BLUB --- GOT IT---

THERE - I'VE GOT IT TURNED ON!









I REALLY OWE YOU THIS!

OH---  
OW!



AND YOU BOYS HAVE A FEW THINGS COMING TO YOU, TOO!

OW!

GR-R!  
OUCH!  
UH!



BESIDES-THIS IS A PUBLIC SERVICE IT'S TIME THIS GANG COOLED OFF FOR A LONG TIME!

GEE!



HERE YOU ARE - YOU WANTED THIS MONEY DIDN'T YOU?

BUT --- YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME ---!

AND  
NEXT  
DAY,  
DAN  
GARRET  
GETS  
THE  
COMPLETE  
STORY!



WELL - AN' I WISH YE'D BEEN THERE! BETWEEN US - WE'D OF GOT THE LEADER OF THE GANG, IN THE BARGAIN!

YOU MEAN-  
YOU LET  
HIM GET  
AWAY ---?



ME, IS IT? HA-FAITH IT WAS THE BLUE BEETLE - LET HIM ESCAPE, THE MALING-ERIN' NUM-SKULL---

WELL --- BUT MAYBE THE BLUE BEETLE WILL CATCH THE DEATH-MASK LATER!



HUMPH --- IT MAY BE INDEED BUT IF IT WAS ME, NOW, THAT LAID A HAND ON 'IM ---









SOME SECRET SHORT  
WAVE STATION HAS  
BEEN BROADCAST-  
ING DEFENSE  
SECRETS..THIS  
STATION MUST BE  
STOPPED!!..

..AND  
..ER..  
YE  
GADS!  
IT'S  
AGENT  
NUMBER  
V-19!

CH-1-EF..  
COUGH..I...I  
FOUND..  
RADIO  
STATION!



# MAN

BY  
JAY  
FOSTER

AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
V-GROUP, JERRY STEELE, GINGER DARE,  
AND OTHER OPERATIVES GATHER TO  
DISCUSS STRANGE EVENTS ----

**PATRIOTS FIGHT FOR  
THE Right**

OLD HOUSE ON  
HILL... SIOUX  
FOREST... SHORT  
WAVE STATION...  
THERE... I ...

OO-OH..  
HE'S  
COL-  
LAPSING!

DEAD!!

WE OUGHT  
TO FOLLOW  
THAT  
UP!

YOU PEOPLE  
CAN TAKE  
CARE OF THIS..  
BEING A V-AGENT  
IS NONE OF MY  
BUSINESS ANY-  
WAY!

JERRY STEELE, IN REALITY THE  
FAMOUS V-MAN PULLS A STALL  
ACT TO HIDE HIS TRUE INTENTIONS



WELL...SO LONG, PEOPLE...KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN, GINGER AND YOU'LL STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!

WHY, THE DIRTY, YELLOW DOG! EVERY TIME I GET READY TO CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT HIM HE PULLS SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



BUT ONCE OUT OF HEADQUARTERS JERRY STEELE BECOMES V-MAN, AND IN RAPID STRIDES, HE OVERTAKES AGENT V-66 ...

COME ON, V-66 THE V-GROUP HAS MORE TO DO...AND YOU AND I ARE GOING TO DO IT!

COULDN'T WE WAIT 'TIL LATER? THAT BLACK SKY LOOKS LIKE RAIN!



I DON'T LIKE THE RAIN! I CATCH COLD WHEN I GET WET...AND THIS RAINSTORM IS GOING TO BE A STINKER!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU I'D THINK YOU WERE SERIOUS! COME ON AND SHUT UP!



HM...THIS SIOUX FOREST! NOT A VERY HEALTHY LOOKING PLACE...ALMOST EVERY TREE IS DEAD AND DRY AS KINDER!

IT'LL BE LESS HEALTHY WHEN THE RAIN STARTS SOAKING THAT GROUND!



THERE'S THE HOUSE AGENT V-19 TOLD US ABOUT!

WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO IN AND CLEAN UP THOSE RATS!



YEOW! GROUND'S GIVING WAY!



WHOA BABY!

LUCKY I WAS FAST ENOUGH TO GRAB YOU! THOSE SPIKES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT LOOKED... DANGEROUS!

WHEW! GOSH! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

AWK!



FROM THE VERY JAWS OF DEATH V-MAN CLUTCHES AGENT V-66!



BUT...V-66'S FALLING INTO THE TRAP HAS SET OFF AN ALARM INSIDE THE HOUSE ...

WHY...THAT LOOKS LIKE V-MAN AND ANOTHER AGENT...THEY'VE ESCAPED THE TRAP...YOU GO OUT AND GET THEM! I HAVE A BROADCAST TO GET OUT!

OK. SCHUTZ





WE'VE GOT TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL! THIS WHOLE WOODS MAY BE FULL OF TRAPS!

YEAH, V-MAN!

THERE IS A SUDDEN CRASH OF BODIES THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH-- AND--

DON'T WASTE TIME! JUST KNOCK 'EM OFF!

KNOCK 'EM OFF, EH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

OOF!

PLUNK!

YEOW! V-MAN HALP!!

HM.. V-66 GOT HIMSELF IN A HOLE AGAIN.. I SEE..

HOLD ON! JOHNNY!

Oooh!

CRASH!

INSIDE THE HOUSE...

DONNERWETTER! THOSE FOOLS I SENT OUT HAVE BEEN KNOCKED AROUND LIKE TEN PINS!

WHY NOT SEND SOME MORE GUYS, SCHUTZ?

NO.. I NEED THE MEN TO OPERATE THE TRANSMITTER.. BUT THE WIND IS BLOWING TOWARD THE WOODS! I'LL HAVE A FLAME-THROWER SET FIRE TO THE WOODS! THE FLAMES WILL FORCE V-MAN TO RETREAT!



A MINUTE LATER, A FLAME-THROWER SPRINTS TO THE WOODS...



THE WHITE HOT FLAME SOON MAKES BLAZING TORCHES OF THE DRY TREES...



GOOD NIGHT! THEY'VE SET FIRE TO THE WOODS!

YEAH! AND THE WIND'S BLOWING IT THIS WAY!



COME ON--GET THE LEAD OUT OF YOUR FEET! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HEY! THEM FLAMES ARE CATCHING UP WITH US!



CATCHING UP... MY NECK!! THOSE FLAMES HAVE US SURROUNDED!



V-66 LOOK OUT!

UH!



EVERY POSSIBLE EXIT IS A MASS OF FLAMES! --WE'RE TRAPPED!!



THAT FIRE IS BLAZING MORE MERRILY THAN I EXPECTED! IF THEY FAIL TO GET OUT THEY'LL BE BURNED TO CINDERS! COME--LET'S GET OUR BROADCAST OVER WITH!



OKAY, SCHUTZ!

APPROACHING THE HOUSE FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION--IS GINGER DARE--



HM--IT'S GOOD I DIDN'T COME IN THROUGH THAT WOODS. I'D HAVE BEEN CAUGHT RIGHT IN THAT FIRE! WONDER WHAT STARTED IT?





ANYWAY...THIS IS THE HOUSE!... WINDOW OPEN TOO!



I HOPE NO ONE WILL SPOT ME!



BUT INSIDE...

WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE, SISTER!

YEAH! WE DIDN'T KNOW SCHUTZ HAD HIS GUESTS CLIMB IN THE WINDOW!

OH!



SO...SHE CLIMBED IN THE WINDOW, EH? HM...YOU'D BETTER FIX THINGS SO WE WON'T BE BOTHERED BY MORE INTRUDERS! MEANWHILE I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT SHE WANTS!

OK. SCHUTZ!



MEANWHILE BACK IN THE BLAZING FOREST...

WELL, V-66 LOOKS LIKE THE END FOR US! WHEW! THAT HEAT'S GROWING UNBEARABLE

I SHOULD'A STOOD IN BED... I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS HOLE NOW!



--I--UH-- WHAT'S THAT...?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? GOING NUTS?



RAIN!! IT'S RAIN!! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!

YEAH--AND YOU WERE GRIPING ABOUT THE IMPENDING RAINSTORM ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, TOO!



I'LL NEVER GRIPE WHEN IT RAINS AGAIN-- SO HELP ME!

THAT RAIN'S MAKING SHORT WORK OF THE FIRE! THERE'S AN OPENING-- COME ON!













V-MAN!  
AM I  
GLAD  
TO SEE  
YOU!

THIS IS WHERE  
YOU ARE. I'VE  
BEEN LOOKING  
FOR YOU FOR  
A QUARTER  
OF AN  
HOUR!



APPARENTLY THIS HOUSE  
IS BUILT TO SINK BELOW  
THE GROUND LIKE AN  
ELEVATOR! THOSE MUST  
BE THE  
CONTROLS!

MEBBE WE  
OUGHT TO  
THROW  
THAT  
SWITCH  
AND SEE  
WHAT  
HAPPENS!



NOT A BAD  
IDEA! HERE  
GOES!

OOP! HEY!  
WE'RE  
RISING!



MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER PART  
OF THE HOUSE...

DONNERWETTER!!  
WE'RE RISING!  
WHAT FOOL IS  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THIS?



WHEN I FIND OUT WHO  
PULLED THAT SWITCH  
THERE'LL BE SOME  
FIRST CLASS LIQUIDATIONS  
AROUND HERE!



THERE! THAT'S THE  
GUY! HE'S GOT GINGER  
LOCKED UP SOME-  
WHERE!

ACH!



SCHUTZ'S HAND WHIPS OUT TO  
THE ROPE... AND PULLS AT  
IT!



THE NEXT INSTANT, THICK  
STEEL BARS PLUNGE DOWN  
FROM THE CEILING...  
CUTTING OFF V-MAN AND HIS  
HELPER...

CLUNK!

OOH!



OF ALL THE LUCK! I KEEP  
THE GIRL AS HOSTAGE,  
AND NOW I CAN'T GET HOLD  
OF HER BECAUSE SHE'S ON  
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE  
BARS! I'D BETTER GET  
OUT OF HERE... I'M TOO  
VALUABLE TO MY VATER-  
LAND TO BE  
CAUGHT!







BUT V-MAN AND HIS HELPER... WHO HAVE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE HAVE SEEN THE CRASH...

LOOK, V-MAN, IT'S GINGER AND I CAN HEAR THE TRAIN COMING AROUND THE BEND. WE GOTTA GET HER OUT OF THERE!

IT'S NO USE, WE'D NEVER GET THERE IN TIME!

WHAT'LL WE DO? BY THE TIME THE MOTORMAN SEES HER HE WON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP!

NEVER MIND! YOU GO AFTER SCHUTZ! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

IF I CAN CAUSE THE TRAIN TO STOP BEFORE IT ROUNDS THE BEND... NOTHING WILL HAPPEN AND I HAVE AN IDEA HOW TO STOP IT!



THANK THE STARS THAT THESE STRUCTURAL STEEL BEAMS ARE LYING HERE!



V-MAN HURLS THE STEEL BEAM ACROSS THE THIRD RAIL AND... THE RAILS OF THE TRACK, SHORT CIRCUITING THE CURRENT FLOW...

AND A FEW HUNDRED FEET AROUND THE BEND...

WHAT THE DEUCE HAPPENED HERE? THERE'S NO JUICE GOING THROUGH THE MOTOR! I'D BETTER APPLY THE BRAKES AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

AS THE TRAIN COMES TO A SLOW STOP, V-MAN RUSHES TO THE WRECKED CAR...



SAY...WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE ANYWAY?

NOT A THING, MISTER!

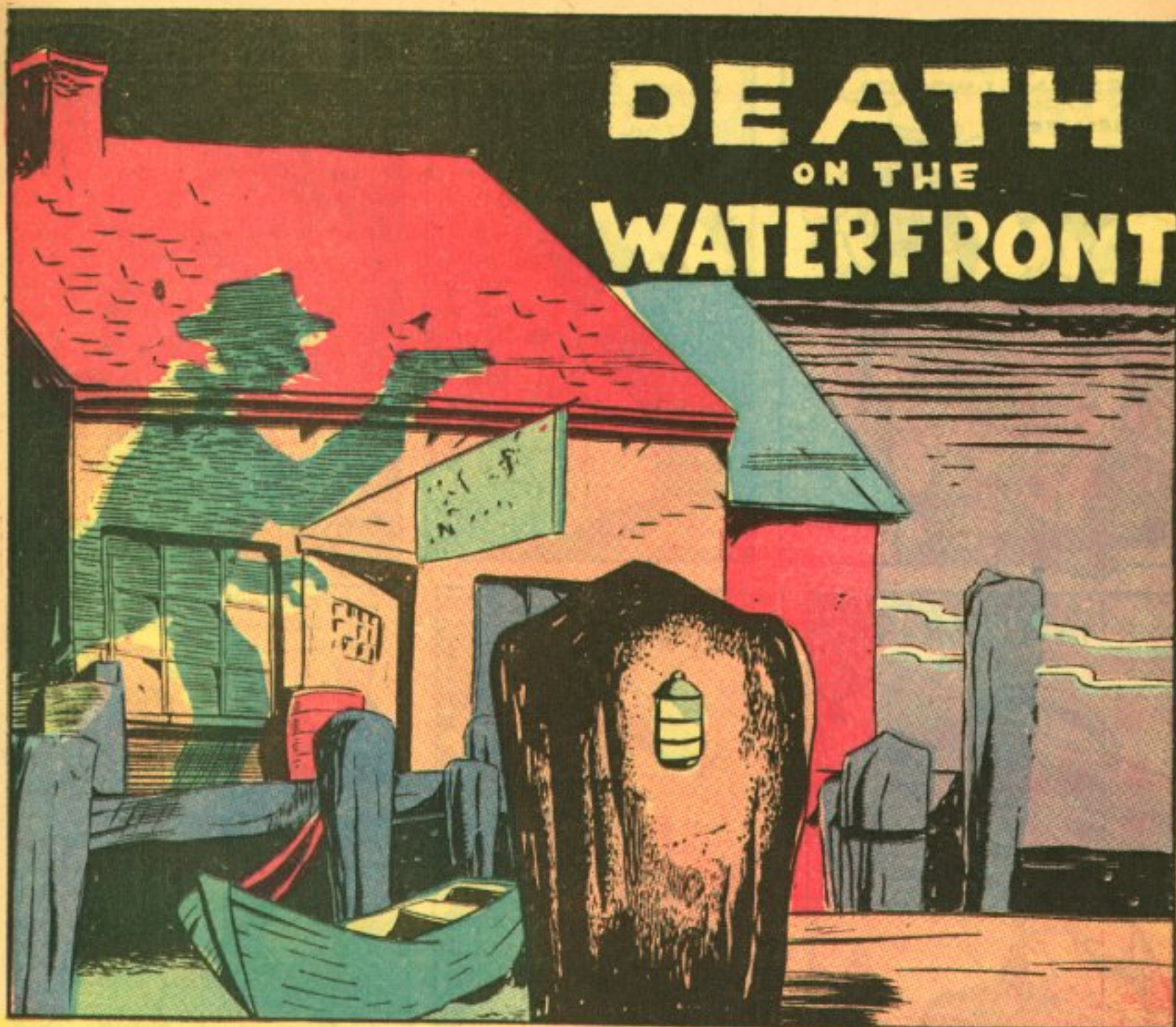








# DEATH ON THE WATERFRONT



Bang!

The sharp report of a pistol echoed through the quiet street as two figures scurried out of Winton's Jewelry Store and leaped into a car parked at the curb. With a roar of its powerful motor, the car raced up the street and disappeared around the corner. Then all was quiet.

Inside the store an old man lay behind the counter with a bullet in his heart. For thirty-five years Jonathon Winton had catered to the neighborhood and anyone who entered his jewelry shop would be certain to receive fair treatment and an honest value for his money. Yes, he was kind and conscientious; but now, old Jonathon was dead.

As the killers sped away from the scene of the crime in their high-powered touring car, they chuckled with satisfaction.

"Gee, dat job was a cinch!" chortled the leader, Chill Burco. "Imagine dat old guy tryin' to take a sock at me. He should hev known dat I'm a tough baby to fool around with!"

"These diamonds that we swiped from de

sale must be worth at least twenty-five grand," grinned Ace Miller, the driver. "Boy, what a haul! An' nobody seen us, neither!"

But somebody had seen them! At this very moment he was on their trail, and when the Blue Beetle is after someone, you can bet your bottom dollar the culprit will wind up behind bars. When the fatal shot was fired, the Blue Beetle was returning to his secret hideaway. Immediately he leaped into a roadster that was conveniently parked at the curb and set out after the killers.

Up the main avenue, through the theatrical district and a maze of side-streets, the gangsters sped recklessly in an effort to avoid pursuit. But the Blue Beetle was wise to the ways of the underworld and when the crooks pulled up to a stop before a deserted warehouse on the waterfront, the famous crime fighter was only a block behind.

As the door of the warehouse slid open, the killers drove inside, stepped out of the car, and mounted a flight of rickety stairs to a room on



the second floor. Inside the room another man was waiting for them.

"Hiya, Joe!" grinned Burco as he sauntered through the door.

"Did you get the diamonds?" said the man addressed as Joe.

"Yeah, yeah," growled Burco. "But we had to kill old man Winton to get 'em."

Joe leaped from his chair, his face flushed with anger.

"What? You fool, I told you there was to be absolutely no gun play!"

"But de old guy took a swing at me!" protested the killer. "I had to kill 'im!"

"All right, it's over and done with," snarled Joe. "You and Ace get your things together. We'll have to get out of town, quick!"

A few minutes later, the gangsters scrambled down the rickety steps and hurriedly entered their car. Miller slid behind the wheel and pulled the starter. The motor whirred and then stopped dead.

"What's the matter?" shouted Burco impatiently. "Let's get out of here!"

"There's somethin' wrong with the motor!" stammered Miller. "It won't start!"

"Come on, we've got no time to waste," growled Joe. "Let's grab a taxi."

The gangsters piled out of the car and ran toward the front door of the warehouse. As Miller started to open the door a grim figure stepped out of the shadows and barred the way. Miller stepped back in alarm.

"The Blue Beetle!" he gasped.

"Yeah, the Blue Beetle," said the crime fighter. "The last time we met I sent you to prison for five years. You just can't go straight, can you, Miller?"

"Stop the gab and give 'im the works!" snarled Burco as he lunged forward.

As Burco threw a wild haymaker, the Blue Beetle ducked quickly and landed with a jaw-breaking uppercut to the criminal's chin. Burco doubled up and fell heavily to the floor. At that instant Miller leaped on the Beetle's back, but the latter bent far forward and the crook was sent spinning against the wall. As he turned, the crime fighter noticed Joe advancing toward him with a heavy crowbar in his hand.

"What are you going to do with that oversized toothpick?" he laughed.

"I'm gonna bash in your head with it!"

leered Joe. With that, he swung the crowbar in a vicious circle and let it fly at the Blue Beetle.

But the Blue Beetle was already plunging through the air in a desperate dive at the gangster and the crowbar passed harmlessly over his head, crashing with a loud clang against the wall.

Splat! The Blue Beetle's mighty fist crashed against Joe's jaw. The crook reeled dizzily. A swift punch to the stomach caused him to double up with pain and a hard right to the chin sent him crashing to the floor.

"Well, that's . . ." A quick movement impelled the crime fighter to turn suddenly. Burco had regained consciousness and was running out the door. Immediately, the Blue Beetle took after him.

Burco was desperate with fear as he ran madly down the street and out onto a long dock that stretched along the riverfront. He glanced over his shoulder and cursed violently. The Blue Beetle was almost upon him! There was no choice but to stand his ground and fight; fight with a man who was known throughout the United States as a marvel of physical strength. Burco crouched low and waited.

He didn't have long to wait. In an instant the Blue Beetle had pounced upon him and Burco collapsed under the terrific impact. But, he was not licked yet; the thought of the electric chair gave him unusual strength and courage. He kicked savagely and clawed at the Beetle's face as they rolled over and over toward the edge of the dock.

Two figures battled in a desperate fight for life. Then one of them stiffened under the impact of a solid blow and plunged into the murky depths of the river.

The Blue Beetle rose and looked over the edge of the dock. His keen eyes searched the surface of the water but Burco, the killer had vanished from sight.

"That'll save the State the expense of a trial," murmured the crime fighter. "I'd better get back and turn those other two crooks over to the police."

When he returned to the warehouse he noticed four police cars parked at the curb and a group of detectives were prodding Joe and Ace Miller into a patrol wagon.

"They'll get all they deserve," grinned the Blue Beetle. "Oh, well—I guess I'll head home for a few hours sleep."

With that, the famous nemesis of crime, vanished into the night.



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one of the means for raising \$10,000,000 to aid war-related activities by the Administration.

Warren said:

Mr. Henderson said part of the anti-inflation drive of Congress will have to be in the Treasury has regulatory authority, instead of a bond buying method. The Treasury last week said that the present anti-inflation individuals be lowered

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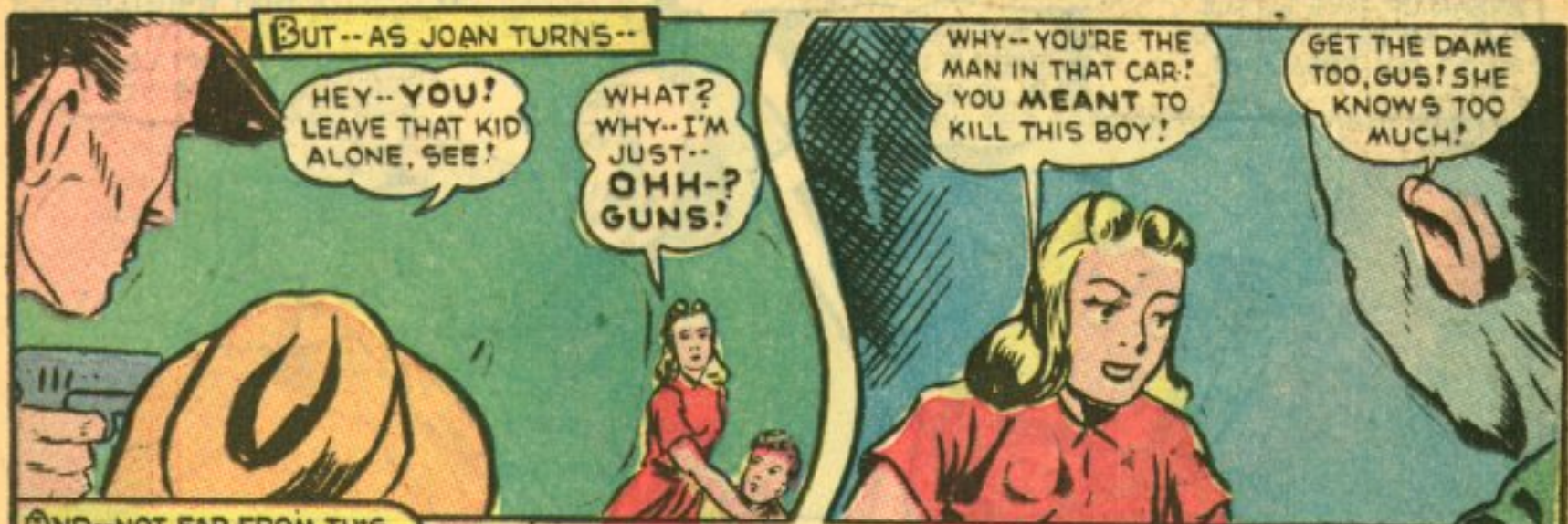
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of Louis  
defender

A SUNLIT AFTERNOON IN THE QUIET CITY; SPRIGHTLY JOAN MASON STEPS BRISKLY ALONG THE STREET IN QUEST OF A STORY ----  
NO, THERE IS NOTHING HERE TO WARN US -- NOW CLOSE ABOVE THIS SCENE HOVERS ONE OF THE BLUE BEETLE'S GRIMMEST ENEMIES-- THE HOODED SPECTRE OF DEATH!











--AND ALL READY TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF YOU, TOO!



--SO STEP RIGHT UP! FAIR TREATMENT FOR EVERYONE!

OW! STOP! WH--WHERE'S THE HOOD?

WHAM



BUT--AS THE IRON FISTS BREAK UP THIS LITTLE PLOT, AN EERIE WHISTLE RINGS OUT FROM THE CAR--!

THE FOOLS! THEY'VE LET THE BLUE BEETLE GET WISE!

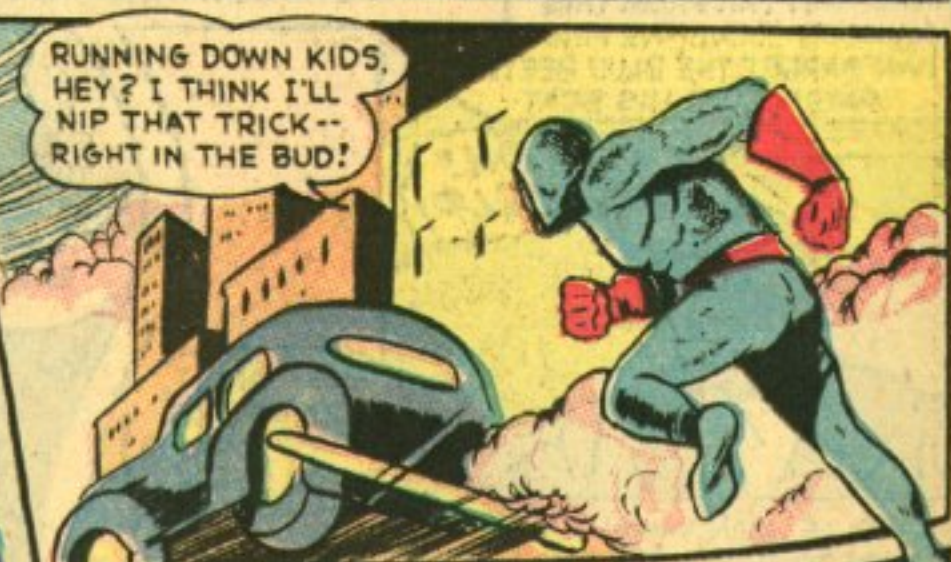


HUH? WHO'S THAT WHISTLING? SAY--YOU BOYS AREN'T LEAVING, ARE YOU?

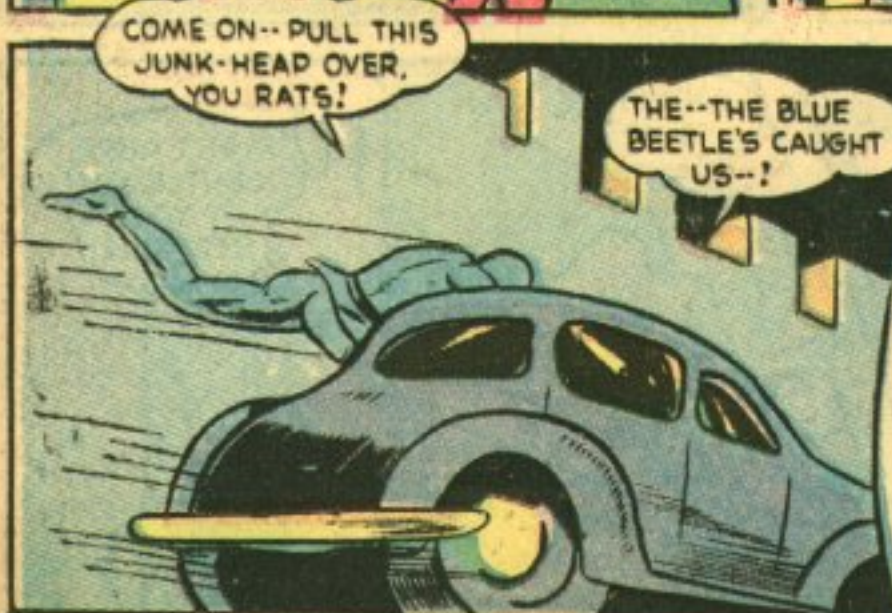


THEY'RE GONE! BUT--JOAN, YOU'RE NOT HURT--?

NO, BLUE BEETLE! IT WAS THE BOY HERE, THEY WERE AFTER!



RUNNING DOWN KIDS, HEY? I THINK I'LL NIP THAT TRICK--RIGHT IN THE BUD!



COME ON--PULL THIS JUNK-HEAD OVER, YOU RATS!

THE--THE BLUE BEETLE'S CAUGHT US--!



YOU BET I HAVE, BROTHER! AND WHEN I GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THAT BAG, WHAT'S MORE--



BUT-AS THE BLUE BEETLE REACHES FOR THE WOULD-BE KILLER, THE LATTER RECKLESSLY SPINS THE WHEEL--SIDE-SWIPING A TRUCK!

HEY!  
WATCH IT!

WH-WHAT  
IN--?

HA-HA! CAUGHT  
YOU AFTER ALL, EH  
BLUE BEETLE?

AND--CRUSHED BETWEEN THE TWO SPEEDING CARS--THE BLUE BEETLE IS KNOCKED TO THE ROAD WITH FRIGHTFUL FORCE!

PHEW! LUCKY I'M A  
LITTLE TOUGH TO BE  
HURT PERMANENTLY  
BY THOSE ACCIDENTS,  
BUT--

MEANWHILE--JOAN  
LEARNS HER NEW-FOUND  
CHARGE'S ADDRESS--

AT THE LAD'S  
HOME--

I THINK WE'LL  
JUST TAKE YOU  
HOME, BUD--YOU'RE  
A BIT SCARED--  
HUH?

WHY--WHAT'S  
THIS--MY NEPHEW--  
HE'S NOT--?

NOT HURT, SIR!  
JUST SHAKEN  
UP A BIT BY  
SOME MEN  
WHO--

--BUT HE WAS  
HERE, UNCLE  
SILAS! DON'T YOU  
REMEMBER?

IT WAS THAT  
MAN IN THE BLACK  
HOOD AGAIN, UNCLE  
SILAS, THAT WAS--

AH--PARDON ME,  
MISS--I'LL TAKE  
CARE OF BUD!

BUT, GEE--I  
JUST WANTED  
TO TELL THE  
LADY--

BE QUIET, BUD! I'LL  
TELL THE LADY  
ALL SHE NEEDS  
TO KNOW!

--WHY OF  
COURSE--

HUH? NOW  
THAT SEEMS  
FUNNY--





AND NOW--IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MISS? THAT IS--THE CHILD HAS ENEMIES--I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL--

--WELL--NATURALLY--I MEAN, WELL, GOOD-BYE!



HUH! OF ALL THE RUDE OLD---NEVER EVEN SAID THANK YOU--OR--SAY, HE DIDN'T SEEM TOO GLAD TO SEE HIS NEPHEW, EITHER?



THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON THERE! AND I'LL BET I'LL FIND OUT WHAT--!



HELLO? MR. SPENCER? WHY, THIS IS JOAN MASON OF THE BLADE!--IF YOU'LL COME DOWN TO MY OFFICE, I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE MEN WHO WERE AFTER YOUR NEPHEW--



AND AS BUD'S UNCLE TAKES THE BAIT--

AH-H-H! THERE HE GOES--!



--AND WHILE HE'S GONE, I'LL JUST SEE IF MY SKELETON KEY DOESN'T OPEN THIS DOOR--



JOAN IS SUCCESSFUL-- AND INSIDE--

OH! MY GOODNESS-BUDDY! WHO TIED YOU UP AND GAGGED YOU LIKE THAT--?



HERE! LET'S GET YOU LOOSE--!

IT WAS MY UNCLE SILAS-- HE TIED ME UP, MISS JOAN! HE'S MAD AT ME CAUSE I HEARD HIM AND SOME MEN TALK ABOUT GETTING MONEY FROM A BANK--!



--AND--AND THEN I LOOKED  
AND THERE WAS A MAN IN A  
BLACK HOOD, INSTEAD OF  
UNCLE SILAS-- AND THE  
MAN WAS MAD AT ME!

BUT--AS JOAN UNTANGLES  
THIS STRANGE STORY--

WHY, THAT  
MUST MEAN--  
WHAT'S  
THAT--?

IT--IT'S YOU! BUT  
DON'T YOU DARE  
HURT THIS  
CHILD--!

HA-HA--I WON'T  
HURT HIM! HE'LL  
NEVER KNOW  
WHAT HIT HIM!

NEVER YOU MIND--  
NOTHING'S GOING  
TO HIT HIM--QUICK,  
BUD---RUN TO  
FRANZ'S DRUG  
STORE FOR  
HELP--!

BUT--AS THE LAD RUNS  
OUT, HE MEETS OTHERS  
OF THE GANG!

GEE--I'M--  
I'M SCARED!

YOU'D BETTER  
LEARN TO KEEP  
YOUR NOSE OUT  
OF MY BUSINESS!

HUH? SAY--  
WHERE'S THE  
KID GOIN'--?

RUN, BUD,  
RUN!

HOWEVER, BUDDY  
GETS AWAY--!

WHY-- BUD  
SPENCER--  
WHAT'S  
WRONG--?

IT--IT'S  
MISS  
JOAN--!

THERE'S A BUNCH  
OF MEN HURTING  
HER AT MY  
UNCLE'S HOUSE--  
SHE SAID TO  
COME HERE!

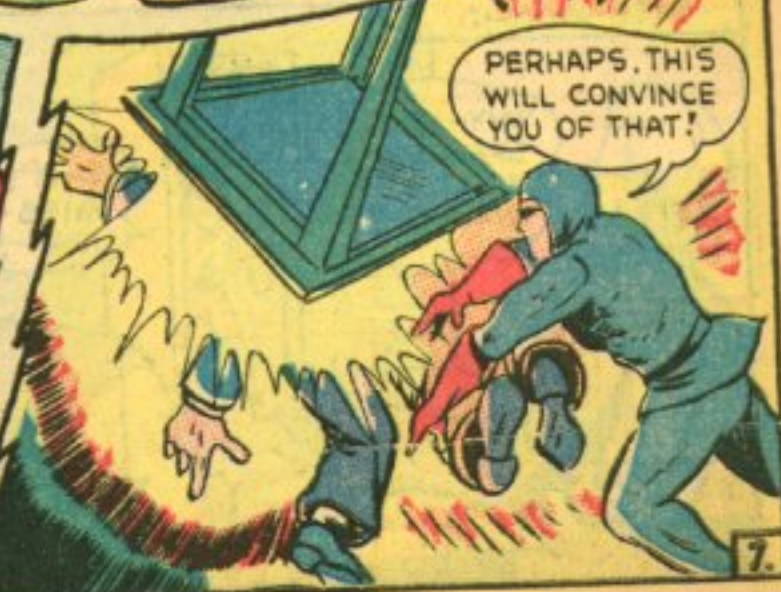
THAT MEANS SHE  
MUST WANT ME TO  
GET IN TOUCH  
WITH THE BLUE  
BEETLE!



BUT--AS FRANZ TURNS ON THE BLUE BEETLE RADIO--



BUT--FALLING, FRANZ HAS MANAGED TO TURN ON THE BLUE BEETLE RADIO!







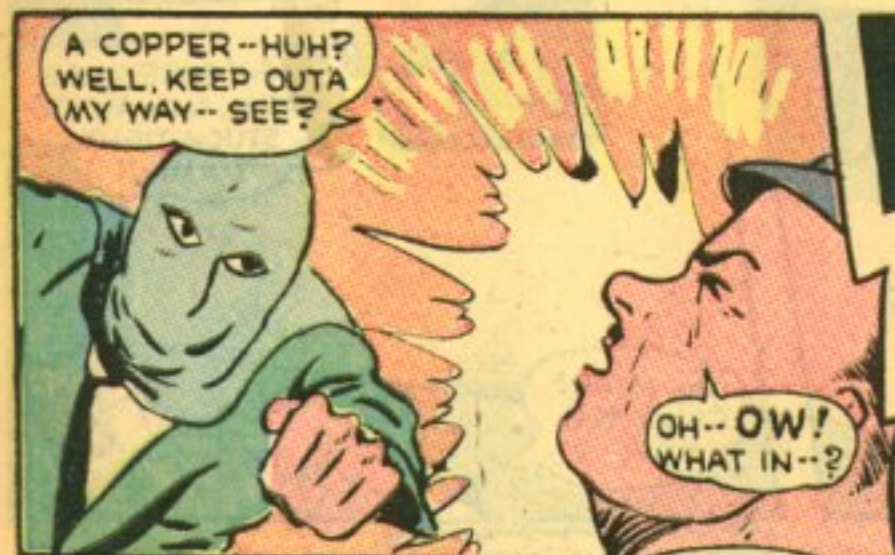
BUT-- AS THE BLUE BEETLE SETTLES THINGS IN HIS OWN FASHION--!

COME ON, YOU MOUTHY BRAT. YOU'RE GOING FOR YOUR LAST RIDE!

BLUB

ON HIS WAY OUT--THE SINISTER FIGURE BUMPS A FAMILIAR CHARACTER PASSING BY--

ULP!



A COPPER--HUH? WELL, KEEP OUTA MY WAY-- SEE?

OH-- OW! WHAT IN--?



NOW THERE'S A FRESH ONE! BUT HE'LL NOT GET AWAY WITH IT, INDEED!



YOU! **STOP!** THERE-- I SEE YE--!



IN HERE HE'S GONE, IS IT?--WELL, AN' I'LL BE TAKIN' A BIT OF A LOOK--

BENDING, MIKE SEES--

PHWAT! SURE, AN' IT'S MISS JOAN, THEN-- TIED UP BY THAT BLACK NIGHTSHIRT!

AND-- MIKE IS RIGHT--!



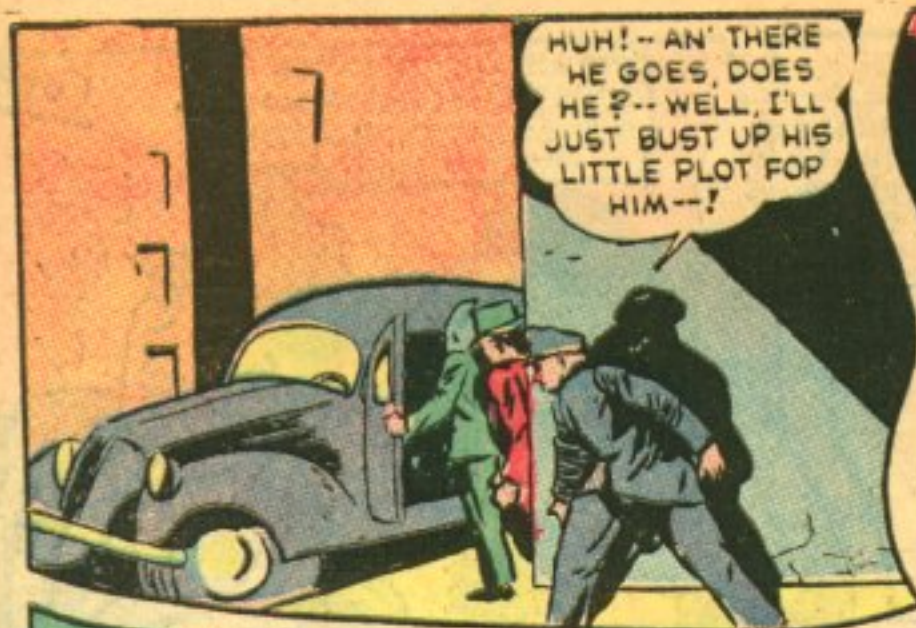
THIS'LL TAKE A BIT OF LOOKIN' INTO, IT WILL!



WELL, MISS MASON, D'YOU THINK YOU'LL KEEP HERE UNTIL I GET BACK FROM A LITTLE TRIP TO THE FIRST NATIONAL?

I'LL KEEP YOU RAT! --AND I'LL SEE YOU IN JAIL, YET!





HUH!-- AN' THERE HE GOES, DOES HE?-- WELL, I'LL JUST BUST UP HIS LITTLE PLOT FOR HIM--!



TSK! THE PLACE ALL LOCKED AN' ALL! BUT WILL IT STOP A MANIGAN? 'T WILL NOT!



OO--OOSH! I-- I'VE SLIPPED, INDEED--!

WHILE --BACK IN THE DRUG-STORE!



-UGH! SURE, MISS JOAN, AN'--AN'TIS STUCK TIGHT I AM--!

OH, MIKE! CAN'T YOU MOVE--?



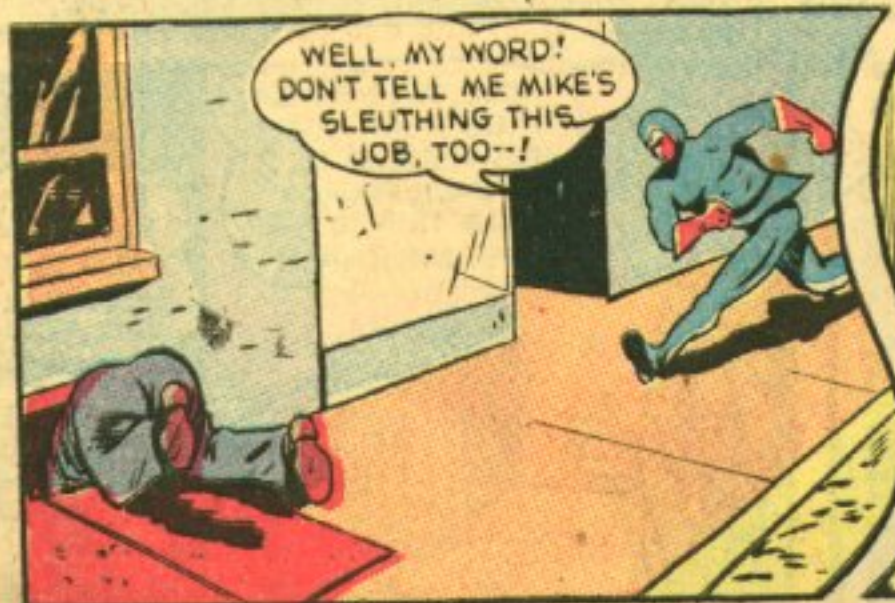
FRANZ! YOU-- YOU'RE NOT HURT?

A BIT, BLUE BEETLE! BUT LISTEN--JOAN'S IN TROUBLE!



SECONDS LATER, THE BLUE BEETLE SPEEDS TO THE RESCUE--!

THE HOODED MAN'S AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS!-- AND HE WENT THIS WAY, I THINK--!



WELL, MY WORD! DON'T TELL ME MIKE'S SLEUTHING THIS JOB, TOO--!



I'LL JUST LEAVE HIM THERE UNTIL I TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THIS HOUSE!





WHATEVER'S IN HERE, IT SEEMS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO PUT ARMED GUARDS OVER IT--!



--NOT THAT I'M GOING TO LET THAT STOP THE INVESTIGATION!



--BUT--JOAN!  
GOOD GRIEF, WHAT  
A MERRY LITTLE  
GATHERING THIS IS!



G'GIT ME DOWN--YE--  
YE BLITHERIN'  
BOGLE--!

ALL IN GOOD TIME,  
MIKE! BUT SAY,  
WHAT IS THIS?



WELL, I'M SORRY,  
OLD BOY--BUT  
THAT MEANS I  
HAVE A DATE!

A--A DATE!  
IS IT? WHY--  
I'LL--I'LL!



THE FIRST NATIONAL  
BLUE BEETLE!--  
HURRY--IT'S BEING  
LOOTED!

OH, NOW--SILLY BOY,  
YOU DON'T REALLY  
MEAN THAT--  
DO YOU?



OH--YE MURDERIN'  
DIVVLE! AN' IF I  
SEE A HAIR OF  
YE AGAIN--!

TA-TA,  
NOW!



--AND THERE HE  
GOES! OH, DEAR--  
I'D LOVE TO FOLLOW,  
BUT I SUPPOSE--  
POOR MIKE--!









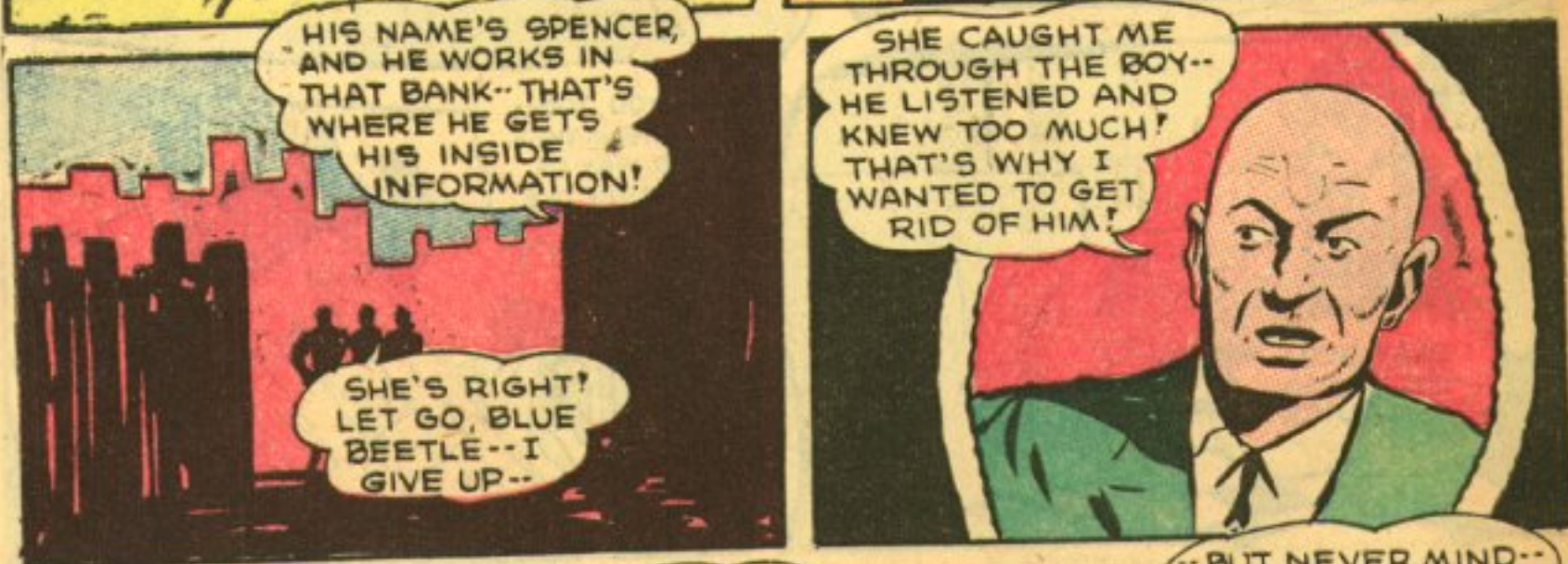
THE HOODED  
FIGURE THROWS  
HIS DEADLY  
WEAPON--



--AND YOU, TOO--  
SAY, THIS MAKES  
A GOOD WAY OF  
VENTILATING THE  
PLACE--!











WHILE--AT A CERTAIN CELLAR WINDOW NOT FAR AWAY--!

H'MM? BLESS ME SOUL-- A QUEER ENOUGH LOOKIN' THING!

--A MALEFACTOR IN THE COURSE OF HIS CRIMES, I'VE NO DOUBT--!

--AN' IT'S ME THAT WILL DEAL WITH HIM AS HE DESERVES, I WILL--!

H'HALP! Ooo... WHAT A FIENDISH BLOW, NOW--!

WOW-W-W

--AN'--AN' WHEN I GIT ME HANDS ON HIM THAT DEALT IT TO ME-- FAITH!

--EH?--AN' IT'S YOU, O'HARA? INDEED--IT'S YOU? YOU?

ULP? GLORY BE--MANIGAN! WELL, I'LL--!

--AN' WHEN THEY DO--IT'LL BE OVER YOUR DEAD BODY, O'HARA--!

N'NOW--MIKE--BE REMEMBERIN' YOURSELF, WILL YE--?

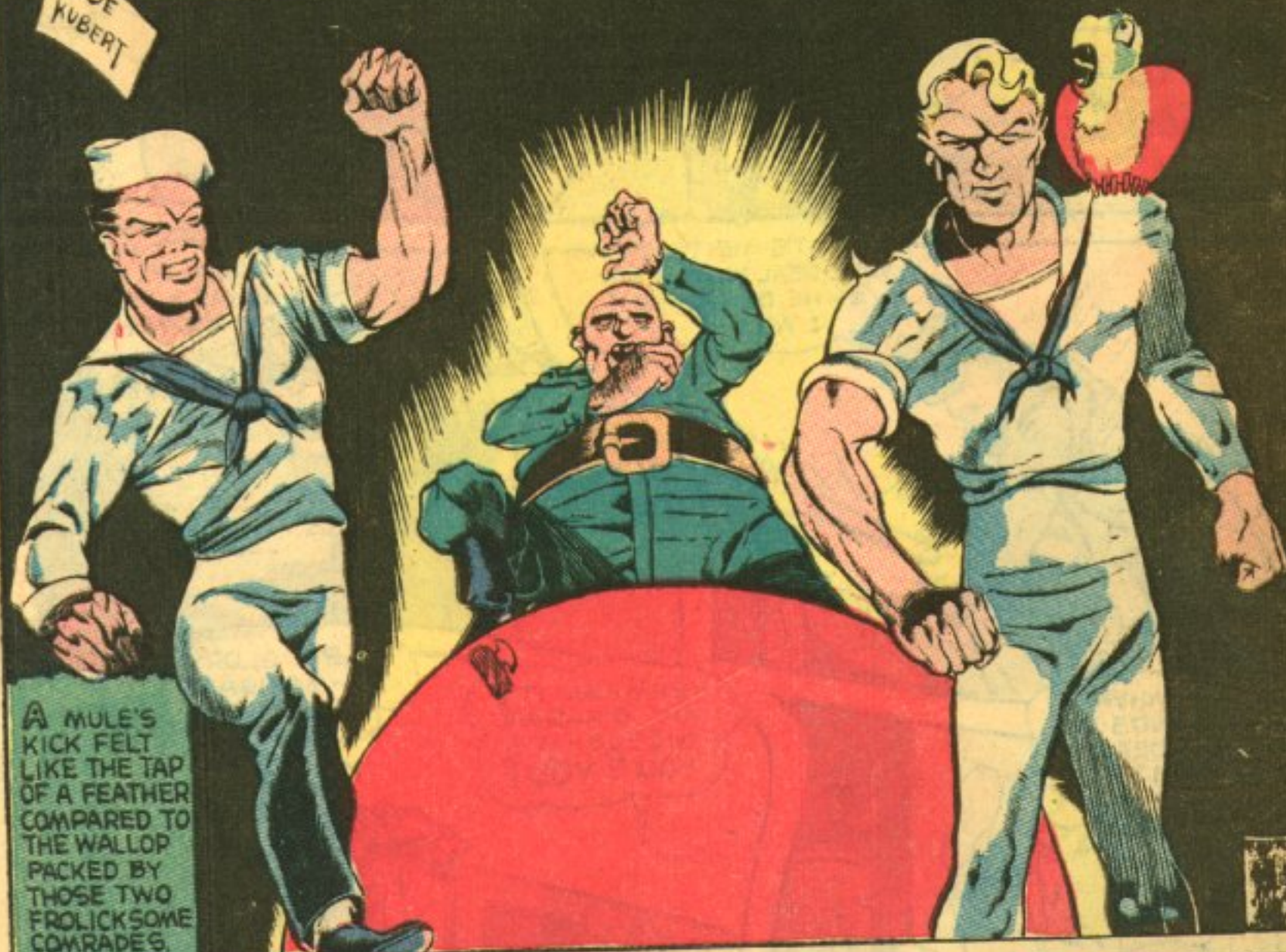
HO HO HO HA HO HA HO

OH, INDEED--AN' WHEN THE BHOYS HEAR OF THIS!



# SPARK STEVENS

JOE KUBERT



A MULE'S KICK FELT LIKE THE TAP OF A FEATHER COMPARED TO THE WALLOP PACKED BY THOSE TWO FROLICKSOME COMRADES, SPARK AND CHUCK, WHEN THEY SAILED INTO THE BAND OF FACIST TERRORISTS!

CHUCK! GRAB THE...

I GOT HIM-- OOPS-- I MISSED!

SO LONG, YOUSE GUYS! CRAAWK!



NOW WHERE DID THAT DING-BUSTED THING GO?

MAYBE HE--- LISTEN!



CRAAWK! IT'S MOIDER, YOU GUYS!

SPARKS! IT'S HIM, AND SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!

MAYBE SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KILL THE BIRD-- COME ON, CHUCK!

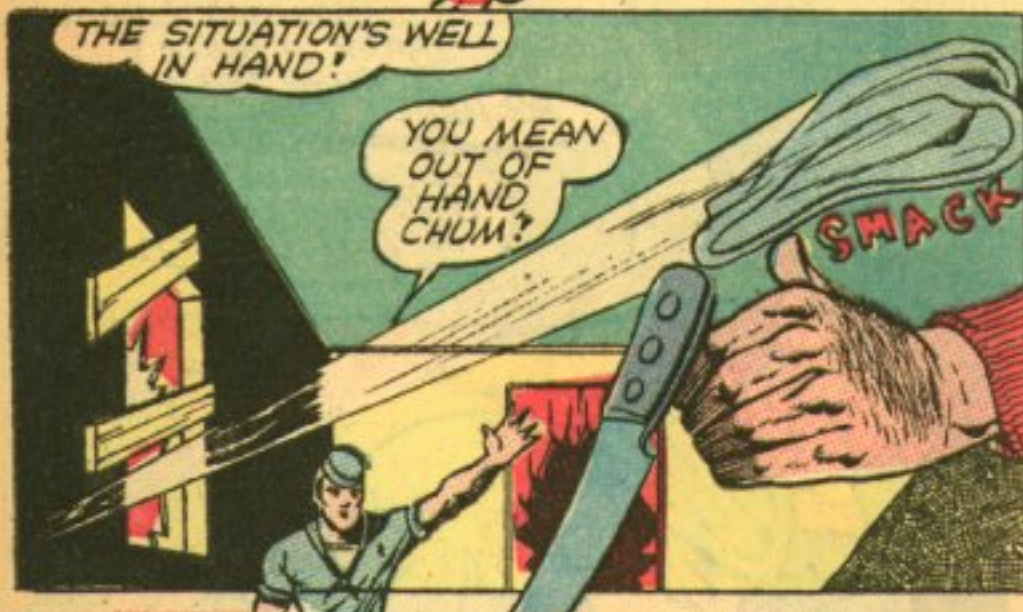
CRAAWK! CALL OUT THE NAVY!

THE DOOR IS BOLTED!

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?













THAT NIGHT, A MESSAGE  
CRACKLES ACROSS THE  
AIR WAVES!

GAMBINIS IN AMERICA!  
ATTENTION TO REPORT  
FROM ITALY! VENTURO  
FAMILY STOPPING IN  
IMPERIAL HOTEL--DANGEROUS  
ENEMIES OF FACISTI--THEY  
MUST BE WIPED OUT!



LATER, WITH THE VENTURO FAMILY AT THEIR HOTEL --

AMERICA, SHE'S A ONE FINE  
COUNTRY--ALREADY GOTTA  
LICENSE FOR A PEANUT  
STAND--HEY, BAMBINO,  
OPEN DOOR!



IT'S DEM BU-- I MEAN,  
WHO'SA HERE?



OUT OF THE WAY  
LITTLE ONE--AHH,  
THERE THEY ARE,  
JUST LIKE THE  
MESSAGE SAID!

HEY WHAT'SA  
WRONG?



TH--TH--  
GAMBINIS!

VENTURO YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILY ARE ENEMIES  
OF FACISTI IL DUCE--HE  
WANTS ALL OF YOU  
WIPED OUT!



BUT YOU MUST  
BE MISTAKEN,  
WE ARE NOT  
THE VENTUROS!

WHAT? THE  
GAMBINIS  
ARE NEVER  
WRONG!



THEN THIS OUGHT TO  
CONVINCE YOU!

YIII! IT'S THEM  
SAILORS!



CHARGE!

WHY THE LUG'S  
INSULTED US,  
SPARKS!

OH YEAH?  
WHAT ARE  
WE WAITING  
FOR?



GANGWAY!

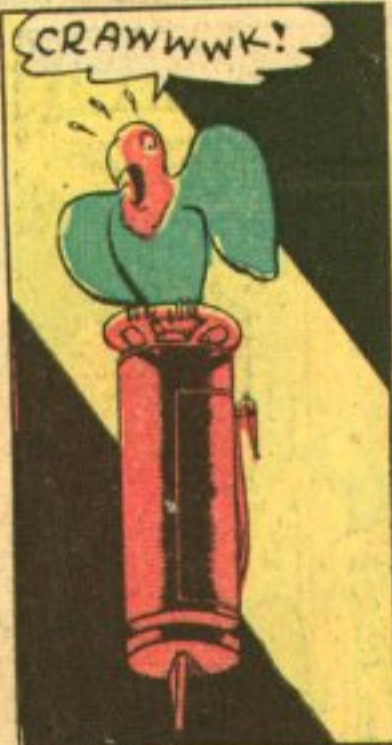
OOOP!!







AS SPARK AND CHUCK ARE  
ABOUT TO PUT THE FINISHING  
TOUCHES ON THE GAMBINIS--





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